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THE DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS IN ENGLAND.

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THE DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS IN ENGLAND:

BEING

A CONTINUATION OF

LE DIABLE BOITEUX

OF

LE SAGE.

[By William Combe].

THE SECOND EDITION.

Haud passibus æquis.—VIRGIL.

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PREFACE.

I HAVE not only adopted the machinery of *Le Sage*, to repreſent the manners of the preſent times, but have alſo taken the liberty to make this work a *regular Continuation* of the *Diable Boiteux* of that admirable writer.

It has been my intention to paint, as he has done, though with a far inferior pencil, after living nature; and to give my pictures the advantage of a juſt reſemblance, rather than

than the attractive colourings of imagination. The manner in which this work is executed, muſt be left to the candour of thoſe who may honour it with their attention:—I can only obſerve in its favour, that every character and circumſtance delineated or deſcribed in it, is taken from the perſons and events of the *preſent period*.

I have, ſometimes, indeed, repreſented a complete virtue, vice, or foible, as exiſting in one mind, which has been ſelected from its operations on various congenial characters.—The hiſtory of the Univerſal Spy, in the firſt volume, is an example: It

It is not, indeed, to be ſuppoſed for a moment, that the numerous eccentricities there attributed to him, were ever to be found in one man; but I will venture to aſſert, that there is not a ſingle act related of his life, which has not been, in ſome way or other, performed by perſons of his peculiar caſt of character.

I ſhall only add, that, if the public ſhould condeſcend to be pleaſed with theſe volumes, there are three or four more at their ſervice.

THE AUTHOR.

DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS.

CHAP. I.

The Means which DON CLEOFAS LEANDRO PEREZ ZAMBULLO, *employed to releaſe the* DEVIL *upon* TWO STICKS *from the Power of the* MAGICIAN, *and the Cauſe of their Journey to* ENGLAND.

WHEN the ceremonies and public feſtivity attendant upon the marriage of Don Cleofas with his Seraphina were concluded, and the enchanted Bridegroom began to recover a little from the delirium of happineſs,—the probable ſituation of his friend Aſmodeus, to whom he owed it all, preſſed home upon his thoughts. "If," ſaid he, "the Devil upon

Two Sticks were at liberty, I ſhould moſt certainly have ſeen him: I am afraid, therefore, that he languiſhes under the cruel power of the Magician, who may at this moment be loading him with added tortures, for that temporary eſcape to which I am ſo infinitely indebted. It muſt not be," continued Cleofas; "I will go myſelf to the enchanter, and if my entreaties will not ſoften him, my gold, perhaps, may bribe him; but, if both theſe means ſhould fail, the power and influence I now poſſeſs, may give ſuch force to my menaces as to frighten him into compliance. I am now become related to more than one of thoſe who are in the direction of the HolyOffice, and their power, if neceſſary, ſhall be called forth to aſſiſt me. It is againſt the intereſt of the Inquiſition that ſuch a devil ſhould be in confinement." Indeed, ſo intent was he upon the execution of this buſineſs, that the charming and fond Seraphina was, for a ſhort time, forgotten, in his anxious impatience to complete it.

With

With no common ſolicitude did he wait for the approach of night, when he ſtole unobſerved from his hotel, and gained admittance to the Magician; who, having heard the hiſtory of Don Cleofas, and the object of his errand, diſcovered no ſmall degree of alarm and confuſion. "I have for ſome time apprehended," ſaid he, "the burſting of a ſtorm upon me, but could not diſcover from whom, or from what quarter it was to come:—the moment then approaches that I am to encounter the full force of it, and to experience the fruits of my folly, in truſting to the vain imagination, that the Devil will not, at laſt, prove too many for the moſt cunning among us, although we have him corked up in a bottle." "Be not afraid, Signior Magician," ſaid Don Cleofas, "of me, or the power which I may poſſeſs to hurt you.—I only aſk the deliverance of the Devil upon Two Sticks; and, that requeſt being granted, you may proceed in forming your ſpells, and framing your taliſmans unhurt, and uninterrupted

terrupted by me." The old man, heaving a deep ſigh, immediately quitted the chamber, and returned in a few minutes, accompanied by Aſmodeus; who, having embraced his deliverer, they both took leave of the reluctant Aſtrologer, and found themſelves, after a few moments flight, in the cabinet of Don Cleofas. "Well," cried he, in a tone of no common triumph, "Aſmodeus will at leaſt acknowledge, that I am not ungrateful." "I will acknowledge it, my Lord," replied the Demon, "from my very ſoul; nor ſhall you have occaſion, throughout your life, to ſuppoſe that a devil cannot equal mankind in gratitude.—You have preſerved me from what, I believe, would have been a long, as I know it to have been a moſt cruel impriſonment; but that hiſtory ſhall be reſerved for another opportunity.—As I ſhall ſee occaſion to do you ſervice, or afford you amuſement, you may depend upon being viſited by me; but, at preſent, I will not detain you from the impatient beauty,

who

who is murmuring forth the tendereſt reproaches for your delay.—Though it is my intereſt, as it is my duty, to increaſe the dominion of Hell, I owe you too much, to keep you a moment from Heaven." The Devil upon Two Sticks immediately vaniſhed, and Don Cleofas haſtened to poſſeſs that Heaven in the arms of the enamoured Seraphina.

Such a ſtate of happineſs as was experienced by Don Cleofas Leandro Perez Zambullo, for the courſe of nine years, has been the lot of very few. The poſſeſſion of beauty, wealth, honours, public reſpect and private eſteem—nor ſhall I omit the occaſional viſits of the Devil upon Two Sticks—all combined to render him the happieſt of mankind. But humanity had its claims upon him, and they muſt be ſatisfied. This brilliant ſcene, at length, drew near its period; and the ſudden illneſs of his father-in-law, Don Pedro de Eſcolano, threw the firſt cloud over it.

The two principal phyſicians of Madrid being gone ten leagues from thence, to attend a rich Abbot, who was ſeized with a violent fit of the cholic, and Don Pedro's attack appearing to demand immediate aſſiſtance, a young doctor of the neighbourhood was ſent for, and comforted the afflicted family with an aſſurance, that the noble patient was in no immediate danger; and that he had every reaſonable hope of reſtoring him, in the courſe of a few days, to health and to them.

Indeed, Don Pedro was ſo much recovered the morning after his attack, as to ſit up in his bed and converſe with thoſe around him. At this period, the two phyſicians already mentioned, arrived from the country, who, on examining the patient, treated the favourable prognoſtications of the young doctor with heſitation, and preſcribed their remedies. In the evening the poor old Lord grew worſe: the phyſicians attended, and again preſcribed.

In

In the morning the diſorder increaſed, and two other learned brethren of the faculty were called in, to conſult on the dangerous criſis; they unfortunately preſcribed alſo; and, in three days, Don Pedro de Eſcolano was no more.

Seraphina mourned the loſs of a tender and affectionate parent with an extreme affliction, that neither the moſt ſolicitous repreſentations of her friends, nor the moſt anxious attentions of the huſband ſhe adored, could diminiſh. The violence of her grief, with the fatigue ſhe had undergone in an unremitted attendance upon her father, brought on a moſt violent fever, and a very advanced ſtate of pregnancy tended to increaſe the dangerous ſymptoms of her diſorder. The ſame phyſicians who had been ſo unſucceſsful with the father, were not more fortunate in preſcribing remedies for the daughter; and at the end of five days, during the three laſt of which ſhe had been delirious, the charming Se-

raphina for ever left her much loved Don Cleofas, in a ſtate of diſtraction little inferior to that from which ſhe had been juſt delivered.

So deeply was he afflicted for the loſs he had ſuſtained, that it was ſome time before he paid any attention whatever to the objects around him, or even noticed, with any particular regard, the four lovely pledges that Seraphina had left him. At length he began to recover from the violence of his grief, and to attend, in ſome degree, to the arrangement of his affairs, the prattle of his children, and the kindneſs of his friends.

Among the number of thoſe who preſſed their conſolations upon him at this period, he received a viſit from the Devil upon Two Sticks.—"Ah, my friend," exclaimed Don Cleofas, on ſeeing him, "to what diſtant corner of the world have your infernal errands carried you, that you have been abſent

ſent from me at a ſeaſon when I was in ſuch extreme want of your aſſiſtance.—When I ſaw you laſt, I was the happieſt of mortals—I am now, alas! the moſt miſerable of human beings:—the adorable Seraphina is taken from me—and I am deſolate."—Here he burſt into a flood of tears, and the compaſſionate Demon, when they had, in ſome degree, ſubſided, addreſſed him in the following manner:

"It is neceſſary for me, I find," ſaid the Demon, "to aſſure you, once again, that my power has its limits. I could neither ſave your father, nor your wife, from their fate. I was not, believe me, inattentive to their danger or your ſorrow. It was your faithful friend who ſent the young phyſician to the aſſiſtance of Don Pedro de Eſcolano; and if no other had viſited him, neither he nor Seraphina would have been in their graves. He is a young man not ſufficiently practiſed in the tricks, nor ſo perverted by the preju-

dices of his trade, as to be proud of diſplaying his ignorance; nor is he become ſo hard-hearted as to be careleſs of its conſequences: fearing, therefore, to rely on his ſkill, he left the buſineſs to nature, which was all that nature wanted. The other phyſicians, truſting wholly to their ſage preſcriptions, and leaving nothing to ſilly nature, ſoon put an end to their patient. Seraphina's diſorder," continued he, " was incurable from the beginning. All the ſkill of medicine, though Hippocrates himſelf had riſen from the dead to exert it, would have been in vain. That Power, my friend, which gives life and death, has brought matters to their preſent bearing. You will do well, therefore, to ſubmit with patience, and be thankful rather for the good you have received, than be angry at the misfortune that has overtaken you. For who, my noble ſir, has known ſo much happineſs as has been crouded into the nine laſt years of your life? It is one bright ſpot, on which I can

ſcarcely

ſcarcely ſee a ſpeck of infelicity. It is not for me to mention religion; but, ſurely, you do not conſult your reaſon when you deplore, with ſo much violence, that you are not deſtined to baſk in eternal ſunſhine. Let me conjure you to receive conſolation; cheriſh the memory of that excellence you have loſt; live a widower to it through the reſt of your days: be yourſelf a pattern to her ſons; and live to tell her daughters what their mother was, and what they ought to be. The *Seraphinas* which you poſſeſs, muſt conſole you for the one of which you are bereaved. You muſt be ſenſible, Don Cleofas, (continued the Devil upon Two Sticks,) how ſincere and ardent my gratitude is for the ſervices you have rendered me, when I counſel you to act in a manner ſo contrary to the tenor of my infernal commiſſion. Were I to do my duty, and did I act towards you as I have ever acted towards the reſt of mankind, I ſhould leave you to whine, weep, and be inconſolable during the firſt month; lure you to an extravagant and faithleſs

miſtreſs in the ſecond; and, at the end of twelve months, marry you to a coquette; who, by her arts and her exceſſes, would, in a few years, bring you to the concluſion of your fortune, your honour, and, perhaps your life. But I ſhall now leave you," ſaid Aſmodeus, "to your reflections; and when I perceive that you are recovered from your preſent ſtate of irreſolution and deſpondency, I ſhall have a propoſal to make to you, which, if it meets with your acceptance, may help to renew, in ſome degree, your former ſatisfaction, diſſipate your preſent chagrin, and reſtore you to yourſelf." At theſe words, the Demon diſappeared; leaving Don Cleofas to revolve in his mind the counſels which had been ſo kindly adminiſtered to him.

He did revolve them again and again, and found himſelf, every ſucceſſive day, more and more diſpoſed to adopt them: till, at length, he actually became impatient to give Aſmodeus a proof that his admoni-

tions had been ſucceſsful, by declaring a readineſs to comply with his propoſals, whatever they might be.

In this ſtate of mind, as he was ſitting beneath ſome trees on the Prado, the Devil upon Two Sticks appeared before him. "Ah, my dear friend," ſaid Don Cleofas, embracing him with the greateſt eagerneſs, "how I rejoice to ſee you! I have, many a weary day, been longing for the pleaſure I now poſſeſs." "Nor does it give me leſs ſatisfaction," anſwered Aſmodeus, "to ſee you reſtored to ſome ſenſe of enjoyment, and to find that a capacity for pleaſure is renewed in you. Be aſſured, my noble Lord, that man was not born to die of grief, eſpecially for the loſs of a wife; though, if ſuch an end could be excuſable in any one, it would be ſo in you."

"Ah, ſpare me, I beſeech you," cried Don Cleofas, "and let us retire to my cabinet, where we may converſe without apprehenſion of being overheard, or interrupted."

rupted." "Fear not either the one or the other," anſwered the cripple, "I will undertake to protect you from both, in the place where we are; and ſhall proceed to diſcloſe the plan of which I gave ſome diſtant hints at our laſt meeting. You cannot but remember," continued he, "that, the day after I had been ſummoned by the Magician to return to his barbarous confinement, you came to this place, and, ſitting beneath theſe trees, apoſtrophiſed your then impriſoned friend. 'I cannot,' you exclaimed, 'too much regret the abſence of my dear Aſmodeus; he would, in a ſhort time, have carried me all over the world, and I ſhould have made the tour without any of the inconveniencies to which travelling is liable.' Now, to make that very tour, which you then ſo much regretted, is the propoſal that I have to offer to you." "Then," replied Don Cleofas, "I accept it with pleaſure, and am ready to accompany you wherever you will pleaſe to conduct me." "The journey will not be an unpleaſant one," anſwered the Demon; "and the moment

I have dispatched a little business I have in hand with a few virgins, who are tired of the name—a score or two of wives, who are tired of their husbands—and not a few widows, who are tired of sleeping alone, I shall be ready to attend you. In the mean time, you will arrange your affairs, and announce to your friends and family, that, to ease your desponding mind, you are determined to make a voyage to *England*, as that is the country to which we shall first direct our flight, for reasons that I may hereafter explain. Farewell, then," said Asmodeus; "and this day fortnight I desire you will hold yourself in readiness for our departure."

Don Cleofas did not delay to make the necessary arrangements, and on the day appointed, the Devil upon Two Sticks presented himself to his friend; when, wrapping him in his mantle, he bid him have courage, and bore him away with a degree of swiftness that no human comparison can illustrate.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Arrival of DON CLEOFAS LEANDRO PEREZ ZAMBULLO, *and the* DEVIL *upon* TWO STICKS, *in* ENGLAND.

A GENTLE ſlumber rendered Don Cleofas inſenſible to the nature or rapidity of his voyage, till ſuddenly awaking, he found himſelf at the Demon's ſide, on the top of a lofty column, from whence he looked down on a city, whoſe grandeur and extent, filled him with an aſtoniſhment that he knew not how to expreſs. "At length, my friend," ſaid Aſmodeus, "you are arrived, and, as I truſt, you will acknowledge, without interruption, accident, or inconvenience, at the metropolis of the Britiſh Empire. The city of *London* now lies beneath your view,—an object which has not its parallel in the globe that you inhabit; and whether we conſider the number,

ber, the wealth, the induſtry, the genius, or the integrity of its inhabitants, all other cities of Europe muſt yield the palm of ſuperiority to that which you now behold. The Engliſh are a brave, active, and generous people; their virtue indeed, weakened by wealth and luxury, has for ſome time been in the wane, but ſtill the maſs of it is great and ſolid:"—"And to leſſen its greatneſs and ſolidity," interrupted Don Cleofas, with a ſarcaſtic ſmile, "is, I preſume, the principal object of your Worſhip's preſent errand." You are not wholly miſtaken in your conjecture," replied the Demon; "to aſſiſt in that important buſineſs will be my ſole concern, when I am not employed in your ſervice. To tell you the truth, I am a very principal agent in a plot which a body of my fraternity have contrived for the decline of Britiſh Virtue. You well know that my particular department lies among the weaker ſex, and the amorous fools of the ſtronger one; and it is there that the utmoſt efforts of my genius will

will be exerted. By employing partial means we gain but a partial advantage; but female influence being, in one way, or at one time or other, univerſal, if that can be enliſted on our ſide, the buſineſs is done without further trouble—we have then opened the ſluices, and may ſit at our eaſe on the banks, and behold the ravages of the flood. For you may conſider it, my friend, as a maxim, abſolutely incontrovertible, that wherever the morals of women are looſe and unreſtrained, the reign of pure virtue and real honour is at an end. The females of this country have long, and deſervedly poſſeſſed a reputation for chaſtity, ſuperior to that of any other nation of the world; but a ſpirit of gallantry and intrigue has, for ſome time, been making no inconſiderable inroads on the power of that virtue; and, by my aſſiſtance, I truſt, it will encreaſe and multiply: nor ſhall it be my fault, if it does not attain to as great an height here, as it has long done in ſome other nations of the Continent." "You

will,

will, I hope," ſaid Don Cleofas, in a tone of irony, "except that which gave me birth." "By no means," anſwered Aſmodeus; "for, excepting here and there a Seraphina, the little virtue that is to be found among the Spaniſh women, if a forced unwilling chaſtity deſerves that name, is chiefly, if not altogether indebted to the wakeful jealouſy of their huſbands,—the grates of iron, and the vigilant care of a duenna; while the Britiſh female, in the full enjoyment of liberty, preſerves her virtue, by that ſenſe of duty and love of honour which reaſon and religion inſpire. Inſtead of looking for happineſs in exceſs, and ſatiating, by variety, a vicious paſſion, ſhe reſts her hopes on the foundation of domeſtic duty: in the fond offices of a wife, and the tender occupations of a parent, ſhe finds the comforts and the delights of life.—This is the portrait of an Engliſhwoman's virtue,—nor does ſhe ever leave it without many a cruel ſtruggle, or look back to its happy ſtate, even if her

her own ſhould have become the moſt abandoned, without the pangs of remorſe, and the wiſhes of repentance."

"It is well then," ſaid Don Cleofas, "that the ſpirit of gallantry is dead in me, or this would be a miſerable country for a lively Spaniard to come to for recreation." "It might be for that," anſwered Aſmodeus, "among other reaſons, that I conducted you hither. If the end of your wiſhes were nothing more than to ſatisfy a libidinous paſſion, you ſhould have remained among the Caſtilian dames. To obſerve the manners, and trace the genius of a great people, who are not more renowned for their wiſdom, than remarkable for the variety of their character, ſhould now be the principal object of your attention.—If you ſhould chuſe a little amuſement *en paſſant*, that, my friend, will be your own buſineſs; and, when your fancy is ſo diſpoſed, you will find opportunities to purſue it.—If, in the feaſt of life, you muſt

muſt have your *entremets*, I ſhall leave you to find them yourſelf; for though I may be a ſeducer to others, I owe you too much to be any thing but a Mentor to you. But let us," continued he, "leave this moralizing converſation, and permit me to direct your attention to the buſy ſcene below you.

"This is that quarter of the town," ſaid the Devil, "where the merchants and principal traders reſide and purſue their different avocations." "And by the hurry and buſtle in the ſtreet," ſaid Don Cleofas, "the noiſe of carriages, and the crowds of people paſſing haſtily to and fro, with eager anxiety in their countenances, I ſhould imagine that all the commerce and buſineſs of the world were centered in this ſpot."

"Your conjectures, Signior Zambullo," replied Aſmodeus, "are not very wide of the mark; for the four quarters of the world are concerned in the buſy ſcene which you

you behold. The ſtately river which flows beneath us, and is ſcarcely viſible, ſo thick is the foreſt of maſts which cover it, bears into the very boſom of this city the produce of every clime, and carries, on its returning tide, the produce and manufactures of this country to the ocean, whoſe waves roll, or whoſe winds waft them to every corner of the earth.

"Caſt your eyes," continued he, "along the quays on the ſide of the river, and contemplate a ſcene of commercial induſtry which you have never yet beheld, which your mind can ſcarce conceive, even while you behold it; and whoſe buſy honours, the haughty pride of your nobility muſt condeſcend to admire. The glory of this nation is ſupported and encreaſed by its commerce; and, while the ſons of Nobles engage in its concerns, the deſcendants of the Merchant attain the honours of nobility. No lazy *Hidalgos* rot here in pride, idleneſs and poverty. Wealth, obtained by honour-

honourable means, confers honour; and the titles which have been reduced by the misfortunes or follies of thoſe who have poſſeſſed them, are glad to ſecure a reſtoration to their ancient ſplendour, by forming an alliance with the opulent trader."

"In our future excurſions," continued the Devil, "you ſhall be made acquainted with many of the principal individuals in this trading world, and be initiated into ſome of the arts and crafts of it. At preſent, I muſt think of conducting you to the other quarter of the town, where the nobility and perſons of independent fortune take their reſidence;—where the Sovereign holds his court, and pleaſure and faſhion hold their ſway. There it is that I ſhall firſt indulge your curious impatience."

"But, before we quit our preſent ſituation," ſaid Don Cleofas, "let me aſk you what enormous column is this whereon we are perched? And what means the maſſive re-

repreſentation of a flame that ſurrounds us?"

"This pillar," anſwered the Cripple, "is a monument of the great man's genius who deſigned and executed it, and of the ſtrange bigotry of the times in which it was erected. In the laſt century, a fire broke out on the ſpot where the column ſtands, whoſe conflagration laſted ſeveral days, and conſumed a great part of this city. To commemorate the event, or rather to charge it on the Papiſts, who were as innocent of the miſchief as yourſelf; in ſhort, to perpetuate a lie, at the expence of a religion which the policy or bigotry of the times wiſhed to render odious, this ſuperb piece of architecture was erected at the public expence. For I muſt inform you, that this wiſe people have had their fits of fanatic zeal and miſtaken enthuſiaſm, which, though they have not proceeded ſo far as *Autos di Fe*, and general maſſacres, have called

called forth the cenſures of their enlightened hiſtorians.

"But it is now time," continued he, "to quit our preſent ſituation, and conduct you to your lodgings; where I have taken care that every thing neceſſary ſhall be prepared for your reception.—My preſent form," added the Demon, "will be immediately ſucceeded by that of an active gentleman of your chamber; and you will, perhaps, think the transformation for my advantage."

In a moment they deſcended into the ſtreet, and Aſmodeus was as quickly changed into the appearance he had promiſed.—An hackney-coach was immediately called, which conveyed them to an hotel at the weſt end of the town; and Don Cleofas, having refreſhed himſelf with a good ſupper, was put to bed by his new domeſtic; who, promiſing to call him at a proper hour the next morning, took his leave, and left him to his repoſe.

CHAP. III.

Whither the DEVIL *upon* TWO STICKS *carried* DON CLEOFAS, *and what he ſhewed him.*

IT was between nine and ten the next morning, when Aſmodeus drew back the curtains of the bed where Don Cleofas was ſtill enjoying a ſound and pleaſing ſleep. "It is not," ſaid he, "the cuſtom of this country, my noble Sir, to ſleep till noon.—The town is all alive, the ſtreets are crowded with people, and you are embracing your pillow.—It is not in England as in Spain—the day is here as fertile in ſcenes for our obſervation as the night; and I wiſh to employ it in conducting you through the principal parts of this magnificent city.—Our nights, indeed, may be more ſtationary:—but your chocolate is ready, and while you are taking it, I will prepare your toilette.

"Thou

"Thou beſt of Devils!" exclaimed Don Cleofas, leaping haſtily from his bed, and embracing him, "how ſhall I repay the obligations I owe you?" "At preſent," replied Aſmodeus, "I am your debtor,—and you may be aſſured, I will not finally quit you, till the balance is amply diſcharged.—But we have no time to paſs in fruitleſs converſation; I muſt therefore beg of you to apply to your breakfaſt, and when I have decorated your pretty face with the friz of the day, we will ſally forth.—The maſter having diſpatched his meal, and the valet, with half a dozen ſtrokes of the comb, having finiſhed the toilette,—they made their firſt viſit to St. James's Park.

"This," ſaid the Demon, "is the principal public walk of this city,—and on a Sunday evening is ſo crowded with company of all ſorts, that it becomes an undertaking of no common difficulty to preſs through the multitude.—The Nobleman and the Plebeian,—the General Officer and

the Drummer,—the Lady of Quality and the Oyſter Wench,—the Prude and the Harlot, all find themſelves in one promiſcuous crowd, impelled by the deſire to ſee and be ſeen.—That old, irregular, brick building, is the King's Palace—but by no means equal to the dignity of a Britiſh Monarch; and that handſome edifice, which preſents itſelf at the end of the walk, is called the Queen's Houſe, where their Majeſties, in the intervals of public buſineſs and the forms of ſtate, practiſe all the virtues, and enjoy all the comforts of domeſtic life: but I ſhall, in due time, give you a peep into both of them." "What," exclaimed Don Cleofas, ſuddenly, "are the ſerenades of this country given at noon day? for, if my eyes and ears do not deceive me, a very ſplendid band of muſicians, are coming haſtily towards us." "It is not a ſerenade after your faſhion," replied the Demon, "though one or other of theſe bands play for half an hour every morning, in the great court of the palace,

to

to awaken the maids of honour, and amuſe the ſervants of his Majeſty's houſhold.—The air which they are now performing, is a French country dance; and though the muſic has not a very military meaſure, it proceeds from the band belonging to the King's Guard, which is returning from duty, and will immediately paſs before us.—The officer who marches at the head of the company, is a young nobleman of high rank, who, though he does not poſſeſs the knowledge neceſſary to a corporal, may, from the influence of his connections, command the very regiment in which he now commands a company; and, which is rather *à propos*, his mind is, at this moment beating time to ſuch an expectation.—But permit me," continued the Demon, "to direct your attention to an object more attractive.

"Do you not ſee a lady ſitting upon a bench, with a beautiful young girl by her ſide, dreſſed in white?" "I do indeed,"

anſwered Don Cleofas; "and have ſeldom ſeen ſuch a combination of beauty and innocence." "She is the good lady's daughter," interrupted Aſmodeus: "the mother is poſſeſſed of a genteel competence in a diſtant part of the kingdom, where ſhe has hitherto reſided. But a young gentleman of great property in her neighbourhood, having been ſo deeply ſmitten with a lady he accidently ſaw in this park laſt ſpring, as to marry her almoſt immediately—ſhe actually came up to town on the commencement of the winter, with a firm expectation that her daughter would be favoured with the ſame good fortune.—For this purpoſe, they have never failed to patrole theſe walks, every day, when the weather was not abſolutely outrageous, during the laſt ſix months. One whole week indeed, they remained at home, in hourly expectation of receiving propoſals from a young lord, who had been ſo polite as to recover the young lady's bonnet from the impetuoſity of the wind, and on returning it, had made

ſome

ſome polite, unmeaning compliment to her beauty.—However, after dreaming for ſeveral days and nights of titles and coronets, they were at length conſoled by the information, that the expected nobleman was already married.—Some of the walking wits of the place, have given them the title of the Park-keepers; and though they are frequently taken for what they are not, the good lady is never diſconcerted, but applies the knowing look and familiar gaze to the ſupport of her ſyſtem.—I ſhould," added the Demon, "exert myſelf a little towards giving an unexpected concluſion to this idle errand; but the lady's brother, having heard of her folly, will arrive in town this evening, and put an end to it, by taking his ſiſter and his niece immediately into the country.—The pert leer of a young ſmart clerk, belonging to the Treaſury, had not been unnoticed or unfelt by the damſel, and, with the leaſt trouble in the world, I could have formed as pretty a little innocent intrigue as has, for ſome time, adorn-

ed the annals of the leſſer gallantry." "By my faith," cried Don Cleofas, "the virtue of this country well merits your praiſe,—for I find that its very intrigues may be innocent. "What your logic was when you were a ſtudent of *Alcala*," anſwered Aſmodeus, "and uſed to make ſuch frequent excurſions from the ſublime ſcience of that univerſity, to the more practical philoſophy of *Madrid*, I cannot pretend to determine; but it is an axiom in the ſchool where I was bred, that when one party thinks it right, and the other does not think it wrong, their proceedings in the buſineſs, whatever it may be, muſt be pronounced innocent." "You are a charming reaſoner," ſaid Don Cleofas, "and I ſhould really be glad to hear you enlarge on the ſubject,—if I did not wiſh to be informed what that tall figure can be which approaches us, clad in a long black robe, with ſtreamers of ſilk fluttering about him?" "That is an honeſt, jolly ſon of the church," ſaid Aſmodeus, "and the curate of an adjoining

joining pariſh.—He has juſt received ten guineas, for having chriſtened the infant of an eminent ſtone-cutter, who, in honour of his profeſſion, directed his child to be baptized by the name of a celebrated brother ſtone-cutter, of a former century, called *Michael Angelo*.—The jingle of the guineas in his pocket, with the whimſical circumſtance of the name that he has juſt beſtowed upon the young Chriſtian, have communicated to the prieſt that airy gaiety and half-created ſmile which you ſee in his countenance. After having had an excellent breakfaſt, he is haſtening home to uncaſſock himſelf, when, he will, by a country walk, quicken his appetite for an excellent dinner, to which Michael Angelo's father has invited him,—where he will baptize himſelf with ſuch copious draughts of wine, that very early in the evening, he will be as incapable of going alone as the infant whom he ſo devoutly ſprinkled with water in the morning." "I ſuppoſe then," ſaid Don Cleofas, "that the honeſt artiſt firmly

believes in the ſympathy of names, and that his ſon will poſſeſs the genius of the celebrated ſculptor whoſe name he bears." "By no means," anſwered the Demon, "for it is the father's determined intention to bring up Michael Angelo to the Bar; and, if poſſible, to make a gentleman of him."

"That poor old man," ſaid Don Cleofas, "in the ſeat oppoſite to us will, I fear, expire beneath the violence of the cough that afflicts him." "I thank you," anſwered Aſmodeus, "for preſenting him to my attention, as he is a character well worth your notice. He is very rich, and extremely avaricious; yet, on particular occaſions, performs the nobleſt acts of generoſity.—I will entertain you with reciting one of them:—Some gentlemen of his neighbourhood, having undertaken to make a parochial collection from houſe to houſe, for the benefit of a public charity, came at length to the old man's habitation.—The door

door being half open, they heard him arraigning his maid ſervant with the utmoſt vehemence, for having thrown a match into the fire, though ſhe had uſed but one end of it. This caſual information of ſuch extreme œconomy, at firſt checked their deſign of paſſing his threſhold; but as their charitable application was intended to be univerſal, they ventured to enter the houſe, and acquaint the old gentleman with the nature of their errand;—when, without making any reply, he unlocked his bureau, and preſented them with a bank note of fifty pounds.—On expreſſing their aſtoniſhment at what they received, after what they had heard, he calmly anſwered, that œconomy was the beſt ſource of generoſity, and that he ſhould purſue it in the manner that pleaſed himſelf, without conſulting them or any one; and, without taking any further notice of them, continued to reproach the poor girl for the raſh act of extravagance that ſhe had committed."

"Singular as the hiſtory is which you have juſt related to me," ſaid Don Cleofas, "it was in ſome degree interrupted by the wild looks and irregular geſtures of the young man who was paſſing haſtily before us.—Now he turns rapidly to the right—in an inſtant he takes the contrary way,—and ſeems to be in a ſituation that betokens a very diſtreſſed mind, or diſordered underſtanding." "He is in a ſtate of perplexity and wretchedneſs," replied Aſmodeus, "that borders on diſtraction. He had this morning loaded a piſtol, with a deſign of lodging the contents of it in his brain, but his ſervant, alarmed at his apparent diſorder, obſerved him ſo cloſely, as to prevent the premeditated conſequences of it.—If you look down the Mall to the right, you will ſee the faithful domeſtic peeping from behind a tree, and watching the courſe of his maſter's fury, of which he knows not the cauſe, though he trembles for the effects.—The hiſtory of this unhappy young man, is as follows:—

"I ſhall

"I ſhall not trouble you with an account of his birth, parentage and fortune—but begin at that intereſting period when love firſt began to play the tyrant with him. He had entertained a paſſion, the moment his heart was ſuſceptible of it, for a young lady of great merit and beauty, the only daughter of a gentleman who reſided in the county where his own property lay. He was no ſooner of age than he made propoſals of marriage, which were readily accepted by her friends and herſelf, and nothing but the making a final ſettlement with his father's executors, delayed the conſummation of his nuptials. For this purpoſe, a journey to London was abſolutely neceſſary; and meeting with a college acquaintance upon the road, who was ſome time before become an arrant ſharper, our young unſuſpecting country gentleman, ignorant of thoſe arts by which unwary virtue is undone, and rendered more incautious by the near approach of conſummate happineſs, became an eaſy prey to the plundering

plundering ſpirit of his treacherous companion. This obliging friend and his aſſociates contrived, ſoon after his arrival in town, not only to eaſe him of all his ready caſh, but to get engagements and ſecurities from him to the amount of half his fortune. In this terrible ſituation, (without daring to conſult his friends, who would ſoon have ſettled the buſineſs, and apprehenſive, nay almoſt certain, that his marriage with the charming Leonora was for ever ſacrificed, by his irrecoverable imprudence,) as if it were to render his miſery wholly inſupportable—the following letter was delivered to him:"

'Ever ſince her deareſt Henry's depar-
'ture, his Leonora has experienced nothing
'but anxiety and apprehenſion. The hap-
'pineſs which approaches me ſeems to be
'too perfect for duration, and this idea tor-
'ments me with the moſt painful fears that
'ſome fatal event will be conjured up to
'croſs, if not to blaſt it. But think not,
'Henry, in thus making you the confident
'of my alarms, that I ſuſpect your virtue, or

'doubt

'doubt your affection. If I were certain
'that I ſhould never receive the ſtroke of
'affliction but from your hand, the chearful
'look would dwell on my countenance, and
'jocund gaiety would enliven my heart.
'The fields where we have walked together,
'have loſt their charms; and the ſhades be-
'neath which we have ſheltered ourſelves
'from the noon-tide heat, are no longer
'pleaſant. The ſun cannot make theſe
'ſcenes gay, when you are abſent, nor could
'the wintry clouds make them dreary, if
'you were with me. Here, indeed, is peace
'and ſecurity, and where you are, is diſmay
'and danger. Here, the ſhepherd having
'penned his fold, leaves it without a guard,
'nor does the robber approach it; and where
'you are, the midnight plunderer watches
'for his prey, and the lurking aſſaſſin
'graſps the dagger. But wherefore do I
'thus torment myſelf with gloomy imagina-
'tions? Oh! aſk me, Henry, why I love
'you; why my ſum of good is centered
'in you; and, when I have told you all,

'blame

'blame not a young unexperienced mind,
'a mind that has but one view of happineſs,
'becauſe it trembles at the bare poſſibility
'of being deprived of it. You will think,
'perhaps, that I ſhould ſend comfort to
'you;—alas! were I myſelf as rich as Hea-
'ven could make me in comfort, I ſhould
'become a very ſpendthrift, and exhauſt all
'my ſtore upon you. But my Henry muſt
'remember, when he firſt aſked me for my
'heart, how he told me, with a ſigh, that he
'wiſhed to ſhare the joys and the ſorrows of
'it. I did not refuſe the boon; and in now
'offering you its ſorrows, I prove the ſin-
'cerity of the gift I made you. If it were
'poſſible for my ſolicitudes to be greater
'than they are, I would tell you of them, for
'I am reſolved never to deceive you; and it
'would be a deceit which I could not juſtify;
'it would make me even doubt the force and
'innocence of my affection for you, were
'I not to tell you that my heart will be de-
'prived of comfort, till you are returned
'in ſafety to your afflicted

'LEONORA.'

"Gracious Heaven!" exclaimed Don Cleofas, "ſuch a letter as this, at ſuch a moment, was more than ſufficient to plunge him into inſtant diſtraction." "It was on the point of producing that effect," anſwered the Demon, "and his mind now rages in a feveriſh deliberation, whether he ſhall quit the kingdom or the world. But as I perceive that you are deeply intereſted in his fate, I can aſſure you that he will do neither. The villains who have plundered him are at this moment purſued by the officers of juſtice, on ſuſpicion of various iniquitous proceedings, which will, ſooner or later, conduct ſome of them to the gallows. Being informed of their danger, they have all eſcaped for the preſent, except the agent of the confraternity, who is now enjoying his ſolitary reflections, whatever they may be, in the principal gaol of this city. He had the different papers which this poor young man had been perſuaded to ſign, in his poſſeſſion, at the time he was taken; ſo that they were immediately tranſ-

ferred

ferred to the care of the magiſtrate, and will ſoon be effectually cancelled. Of this change in his ſituation, the young gentleman will very ſoon be informed; the buſineſs, as it relates to him, will be huſhed up; and though he is now one of the moſt wretched beings on the globe, he will be, in a very ſhort time, the happieſt of men, poſſeſſing, and poſſeſſed by, the beautiful Leonora.

"I rejoice, moſt ſincerely," ſaid Don Cleofas, "at the winding up of the piece; but ſurely," added he, "this ſelf-ſame gaming is the moſt horrid vice that hell has engendered."—"Softly," my good Signior," ſaid the ſpirit, ſmiling, "I muſt intreat you not to mention the place of my nativity, if you muſt mention it, in a tone of ſo much diſreſpect." "I beg your worſhip's pardon ten thouſand times," replied Don Cleofas,—"but,"——"Nay," interrupted Aſmodeus, "I will candidly acknowledge that the place which you have juſt named with

with ſo much impetuoſity, is more indebted to the paſſion for play, than to the whole conſolidated calendar of human vices.

"But now let me beg your attention," continued the Demon, "to the lady who moves gracefully towards us, and is followed by a footman ſo plentifully beſprinkled with ſilver-lace. Her hiſtory, the early part of which is a real ſecret, will, I believe, repay your attention.

"In her virgin days, ſhe was, by profeſſion, a milk-maid, and had given her firſt affections to the footman of a young bachelor of faſhion and fortune. So perſuaſive was the eloquence of the domeſtic, that, one fine evening in June, ſhe conſented, when the reſt of the family were in their beds, to be admitted to take a ſhare of his. It was ill-imagined, you will ſay,—and ſo it was; but Love, like every other paſſion, contrives very often to out-wit itſelf: for, as the lover was conduct-

ducting the fair one to his garret, his maſter, whoſe chamber was adjoining to the ſtair-caſe which they were aſcending, fancied that he heard ſomething ſtirring; and taking the lamp which was burning in the room, he opened the door very gently, and preſented himſelf, like a ghoſt, to the aſtoniſhed pair. The gallant, in defiance of all gallantry, made the beſt of his way up ſtairs, inattentive to the ſituation of the affrighted damſel. The gentleman, however, recovering a little from his firſt ſurpriſe, and ſeeing ſomething that looked like a female, and, on examination, diſcovering that ſhe was young, and of good liking, drew her gently by the hand into his chamber; when locking the door, he ſeated her upon the bed, and having got into it himſelf, he queſtioned her concerning her buſineſs in his houſe. After a few tears, ſhe told 'a round, unvarniſhed tale;' which being finiſhed, thoſe virgin charms, which ſhe had originally deſtined for the man, were conſigned to the bed of the maſter,

maſter, and ſhe continued to ſhare it with an unblemiſhed fidelity, during the remainder of his life. Perceiving that ſhe poſſeſſed a good natural underſtanding, he was determined to cultivate it: he therefore took her with him to France, where ſhe was attended by the beſt maſters, and ſoon acquired the manners and accompliſhments of elegant life. She accompanied him through a great part of Europe, in a tour of three years, at the end of which period they returned to England. As he had introduced her to his friends, under the character of an unfortunate perſon of very good family, and as ſhe had, by her obliging manners, acquired the eſteem of all thoſe who frequented his ſociety, ſhe did not fail, after his death, which happened about four years ago, to become an object of acquiſition to many of the moſt faſhionable men of the faſhionable world; from ſome of whom, though ſhe poſſeſſes a genteel, independent income, ſhe has, from time to time, levied very ample

ple contributions. At preſent, ſhe is growing rich at the expence of a wealthy young citizen of low extraction, who is proud to be connected with an *impure of good family*. The only perſon who could have betrayed her origin is no more. On being diſcharged from his rival maſter's ſervice, he kept the ſecret for his own ſake, and went ſoon after to the Eaſt-Indies, as valet to a general officer, where the poor fellow died; ſo that ſhe will, in all probability, walk a woman of quality to her grave: for no one has the leaſt ſuſpicion that the irremediable bend in her ſhoulders, which many of her fooliſh admirers have thought a grace, was occaſioned by the weight of thoſe dangling milk-pails which were the conſtant burden of her youthful days. The lady has, however, preſerved a ſmack for the livery, and does not diſdain, when inclination prompts, to ſolace herſelf with the footman who follows her."

" Pray

"Pray obſerve," ſaid Don Cleofas, "the old gentleman who turns round to gaze at her. She makes him, I fear, look back to the days of his youth, and regret that ſtrength which muſt be almoſt exhauſted." "That is not the only, or indeed the principal cauſe of his regret," anſwered Aſmodeus; "he is a brave veteran officer of cavalry; the ſcar which you may perceive on his right cheek, is the counterpart of many others which he wears in moſt parts of his body; and were obtained in a long courſe of dangerous ſervice. He was a Captain before the Colonel of his regiment was born, and he is a Captain ſtill."— "But is it poſſible," ſaid Don Cleofas, "that the King before whoſe palace this gallant officer is now walking, ſhould be ignorant of his ſervices?" "You muſt be informed," interrupted the Demon, "that it is almoſt impoſſible, in the complicated affairs of this government, for the King, who is all goodneſs, to be acquainted with, or even to give attention to every

interior and ſubordinate circumſtance of its various departments. Beſides, in this country, the army is not a popular eſtabliſhment; indeed, according to the principles of the conſtitution, it ought not to be ſo. Its inferior commiſſions are chiefly obtained by purchaſe, and the higher ranks by intereſt; ſo that where a man is ſo unfortunate as to have neither money or connections, his merit muſt be very uncommon indeed, and attended with very peculiar circumſtances, to command any conſiderable degree of advancement: a pair of colours, for his grandſon, is all this brave man ever received from his country."

"But we will leave him, if you pleaſe," ſaid Aſmodeus, "to favour with your notice a young lady, a very intereſting character, who will in a few moments paſs before us. You cannot but perceive the evident impreſſion of grief upon her countenance, which will continue, for ſome time, to leſſen its charms;—indeed, ſhe

was well-nigh falling a prey to it. The beautiful little girl who is ſkipping along before her, is her daughter, and was the innocent cauſe of that affliction which almoſt brought her affectionate parent to the grave. The nurſery-maid, taking her uſual morning walk with the child, became ſo attentive to the fine ſpeeches of a nobleman's *valet de chambre*, that ſhe entirely forgot her charge, and gave a watchful beggar an opportunity of purloining it away. The affliction of this unhappy lady, when ſhe was informed of the accident, I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe; it was at firſt, as you may ſuppoſe, violent and outrageous; but, after every endeavour to recover the poor little girl had proved fruitleſs, the deſpairing mother ſunk into a ſtate of melancholy and dejection, which threatened to put an early period to her life and afflictions together. Her friends took every method their compaſſionate regard could ſuggeſt, to ſooth her ſorrow and divert her melancholy;

and, for this purpoſe, had perſuaded her to accompany them to a muſical ſolemnity at the great church whoſe towers preſent themſelves to the right of you; and as ſhe was deſcending from her carriage, at ſome little diſtance from the place of entrance, a feeble, but well known voice, ſaid to her "Where have you been, my dear mamma, that I have not ſeen you ſo long?" The aſtoniſhed lady turned inſtantly towards the voice, and amid the rags and filth of a beggar, beheld her child. She caught her eagerly in her arms, and ſunk down on the pavement. This unexpected, but happy meeting, occaſioned, as you may well imagine, a ſcene of confuſion that affected every beholder; and, in the hurry of it, the wretch who conducted the little creature thither to aſſiſt her daily trade of begging alms, was ſuffered to eſcape. Since that period, the happy, but anxious mother, no longer truſts a ſervant to perform, for her daughter, any office that can be done by herſelf; and ſhe is now come

come on her daily visit to the Park, to give her little fairy the benefit of air and exercise."

"But you must explain to me, my friend," said Don Cleofas, "why a beggar, who may be supposed to be scarce able to maintain herself, should encrease her difficulties by stealing a child to maintain." "I can easily satisfy you," answered the Demon.—"The cloaths of such a child, when sold, would procure no small degree of temporary luxury to a beggar: but this is not all—instead of the woman finding it a difficulty maintain the child, the child has actually maintained her. The ancients considered the company of an infant as a security against accidents and disasters; and the modern beggar finds a child by her side, or a baby in her arms, a certain attraction to the charity of the compassionate. Indeed, it is a common practice among the beggars of this metropolis, who have not any children of their own, and have not stolen one,

to hire a child, in order to aſſiſt them in their miſerable mode of gaining their daily bread. But when we viſit that quarter of the town where the fraternity of mendicants chiefly reſide, you ſhall be initiated into the myſteries of their republic. At preſent, an object of higher rank preſents itſelf to our obſervation.

"The perſon who is coming ſlowly towards us with the decorations of a ſtar and a ribband, is a Lord who has made your country look pale, and has performed the moſt important ſervices for his own.—In the early part of his life, when a want of education and a rough demeanour were thought eſſential to naval merit, he united all the bravery and knowledge of his profeſſion with the moſt amiable and elegant manners.—His private fortune was conſiderable, and in the courſe of the war before laſt, he acquired a very large addition to it.—But a love of play reduced him in a few years to ſuch a ſituation, as to make

a viſit

a viſit to a neighbouring kingdom eſſential to his perſonal liberty. Diſtreſs, however, ſtill followed him,—friendſhip ſeemed to have forgotten him; and being involved abroad as well as at home, he knew not where to go, nor how to ſtay.—At this period, the troubles of America began to wear an unpleaſing aſpect, and a war between England and France appeared to be the inevitable conſequence of them.—He had, therefore, every reaſon to hope that, if he could return to England, his ſervices would be demanded, and that the fruits of them might be the reſtoration of his fortune.—But how to get rid of his foreign incumbrances he knew not, and without accompliſhing ſuch a deſirable object, it was almoſt impoſſible to quit the place where he had contracted them.—In this perplexing dilemma," continued Aſmodeus, "a French nobleman, with a generoſity that a devil ought to mention with horror, put an end to his embarraſſments; and, diſdaining the narrow ſyſtem of na-

tional antipathy, reſtored this brave and excellent officer to his country, by taking all his foreign debts upon himſelf.—On his return, however, fortune did not at once ſmile upon his hopes; and he was daily ſeen perambulating this Park, not an object of grateful admiration, but of diſregard from ſome, and pity from others. He came not then, as he does now, to catch the refreſhing gale, or feel the enlivening ſun, but to exerciſe himſelf in a place privileged from the intruſions of the exaſperated creditor.—At length, however, the neceſſities of the ſtate, and the general wiſh of the people, co-operated to call him into action; and he did his duty: for the moſt effectual ſervices of the war were performed by him. Though oppoſed, threatened, and, in ſome meaſure, arraigned by a powerful and able faction, he made the deſpondent people feel, that they ſtill were what they once had been.—His trophies are known to the world, and the lateſt poſterity will admire them.—The in-

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ſignia which adorn his perſon, the title that ennobles his name, and the fortune which ſupports his dignity, as well as the laurels that thicken over him, were the gift of victory :—But more of him hereafter."

"This is an animating picture," ſaid Don Cleofas, "for a patriot of any country,—and I offer the Britiſh original a moſt ſincere, though ſilent reverence, as he paſſes by us.—The lady," continued he, "who curtſies to him, is, I preſume, ſome perſon of quality of his acquaintance." "By no means," anſwered Aſmodeus; "ſhe acts in ſympathy with yourſelf: her's is a pure patriotic obeiſance, and no more. The good lady was but lately a midwife, though of ſome reputation in her profeſſion; but having been employed to eaſe a virgin of faſhion of a little baby, without any injury to her virginity, ſhe was rewarded, for her ſkill as well as prudence on the occaſion, with a comfortable independence,

which ſhe now enjoys, and makes her offerings to Lucina no more,

"But let us quit our poſition," ſaid the Demon; "here is one approaching to take his ſeat beſide us, whoſe preſence would trouble me." "What," ſaid Don Cleofas, "is he a Magician who keeps bottles in his garret, and are you afraid, my friend, of being corked up once again? For my part, I never ſaw a perſon of a more amiable appearance." "Let us, however, remove from hence," replied Aſmodeus, "and I will communicate to you the cauſe of my uneaſineſs."—Having croſſed the Mall, and paſſed into the Green Park,—"Devil as I am," continued he, "I can really bring myſelf to look on common good qualities without diſguſt; but, to tell you the truth, that man's virtue is not to be borne with patience.—In the early part of his life, the violence of his paſſions plunged him into various exceſſes, which would have ended in his deſtruction, had he not,

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as he approached the very brink of the precipice, perceived his danger, and ſhrunk in great alarm from it.—This circumſtance had ſuch an effect upon him, that he turned, at once, into that path of undeviating rectitude which he has never forſaken. His fortune is conſiderable, and he employs the whole of it in doing good.—His life is very retired, his manner of living frugal, and his appearance ſimple and without attraction; ſo that, not being an object either for envy or curioſity, he has all the opportunities he can deſire, of diſpenſing his benevolence in ſecret, and without any witneſſes but thoſe who feel the comforts of it." "But how is it poſſible," exclaimed Don Cleofas, "that ſuch a man can be unknown? For even ſuppoſing that he could eſcape from the obſervation of his neighbourhood, which I ſhould think to be impoſſible,—the very gratitude of thoſe whom he relieves, would publiſh his virtues, and hold him forth as an object for univerſal admiration."

"You muſt obſerve," interrupted the Demon, "that the croud in this city is ſufficiently great, to admit of an individual's living, if it ſhould ſo pleaſe him, a long life in it, without attracting any particular notice. With reſpect to thoſe whom he favours with his bounty, he not only engages them to obſerve a profound ſecrecy, which the greater part of them find it their intereſt to obſerve, but he preſents himſelf to them as the agent of certain wealthy and well-diſpoſed perſons, the purity of whoſe benevolence will not permit their names to be revealed. By this mode of proceeding, he ſaves himſelf from being harraſſed with acknowledgements which he does not wiſh to receive, and is alſo enabled to enter into details and proſecute enquiries as to the reality and nature of the diſtreſs he wiſhes to relieve, which he could not do if he appeared as a principal in the buſineſs. There are ſeveral of my fraternity," continued the Demon, "that owe this good man a grudge for interpoſing

terpoſing between them and their prey.—Within theſe three months, he ſettled the affairs of a young man who was on the eve of bankruptcy, and had determined to conceal a part of his effects from his creditors, for which offence, a capital one in this country, he would have been tried, condemned, and executed: and this very morning, he has completely reſtored a numerous and diſtreſſed family to eaſe and comfort, the father of which had determined to go upon the highway to relieve their wants. The peculiar ſatisfaction you ſaw in his countenance, aroſe from the delight he felt in his mind, at the good he had done, and the pleaſing conſciouſneſs that the real author of it is only known to himſelf and to Heaven. But ſomething more congenial to my nature ſolicits our attention.

"You ſee," continued Aſmodeus, "the lady and gentleman who converſe with ſo much apparent earneſtneſs, as they ſaunter round the piece of water before us."

"They are a pair of lovers, I ſuppoſe," ſaid Don Cleofas, "who are taking the advantage of this fine morning to make an exchange of certain intereſting communications." "Your conjecture," anſwered the Demon, "is not very wide of the mark. The lady is of the firſt rank of nobility, and having attached herſelf to a certain ſociety, which her beſt friends moſt ſeriouſly diſapprove, they have perſuaded her lord to take her abroad for a year or two, in order to put an end to her preſent connections. She leaves the kingdom to-morrow, and has appointed the nobleman who is now with her, and is her moſt favoured admirer, to meet her here this morning to ſay adieu, and arrange the plan of their future correſpondence. But the folly of lovers is extreme:—for though they are at this moment interchanging expreſſions of mutual miſery at their approaching ſeparation, and hazard very unpleaſant conſequences by this interview,—in leſs than a month they will think no more of each other."

other." "I am diſpoſed, my good friend," ſaid Don Cleofas, "to riſque another conjecture, that this little innocent intrigue, as you may call it, has been the work of ſome or other of your ſatellites." "By no means," replied Aſmodeus; "nature did the buſineſs to admiration, without any aſſiſtance from me, and will continue to maintain her unaided influence with theſe good people, to the end of the chapter. Nature may ſometimes want a little guidance, and ſometimes require a little acceleration, but in this particular branch of human deſires, her operations and mine tend to the ſame point. It is where other intereſts than mere paſſion are concerned, that I find it neceſſary to employ my ſupernatural agency. But we will now, if you pleaſe, enter upon a more buſtling ſcene; and by paſſing through the door before us, we ſhall be in one of the moſt public ſtreets of the whole city." "Mercy on me," exclaimed the aſtoniſhed Spaniard, "what a clatter of carriages, and what crouds of people! My head turns from the paſſage of ſuch a va-

a variety of objects." "Be not afraid," anſwered the ſpirit; "I will conduct you ſafe through it all, and amuſe you, in your way, into the bargain.

"That grave looking man in black," continued he, "now paſſing us in a carriage drawn by white horſes, is a Biſhop. He ſet out on his ſpiritual career, with a moſt violent antipathy to you Papiſts; but his wife has ſince contrived to make him think with indulgence on that canon of your church which forbids the clergy to marry."

"But, pray inform me," ſaid Don Cleofas, "who is the poſſeſſor of that ſtately hotel before us." "It belongs," anſwered Aſmodeus, "to a noble Duke, of whom nothing can be ſaid, either one way or other, that is worth remembering. His genius lies concealed under a very ſingular taciturnity, and he certainly poſſeſſes no ſmall ſhare of that wiſdom, which an antient

tient philoſopher has made to conſiſt in knowing how to hold his tongue. While he was a bachelor, he is ſaid to have uttered a *bon mot* of no common merit:" "and, ſince his marriage," ſaid Don Cleofas, "has he never ventured to give another example of colloquial vivacity; has he not an occaſional *bon mot* for the Ducheſs?" "Not one," replied the Demon; "but ſhe has *bons-bons* in plenty, and ought to be ſatisfied."

"I preſume," ſaid Don Cleofas, "that the little man dreſſed in ſcarlet, who knocks ſo loudly at the gate of the hotel, is ſome perſon of high diſtinction." "Do not imagine it," replied the Demon; "he is nothing more than a patriotic tradeſman, who anſwers ſome low purpoſe of political party, in which the Duke, or rather Ducheſs, is very anxiouſly engaged; and it is on that buſineſs, in ſome ſhape or other, that he demands admittance to her Grace. Thus it is that the great ſacrifice

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their dignity at the altar of ſome unworthy paſſion, and bring themſelves to the diſgraceful neceſſity of practiſing ſubmiſſions to the meaneſt and moſt inſignificant of mankind.

"But here is a ſpectacle," continued he, "of a very different complexion; and I beg my friend will pay all due attention to the *memento mori* which is paſſing before us" "It has, indeed," ſaid Don Cleofas, "an appearance of no little ſolemnity: the ſlow proceſſion, the ſable attendants, the eſcutcheons, and the plumes diſpoſe my mind, ſome how or other, to be ſad and ſerious. What deep affliction I perceive in the countenances of thoſe, who are following ſome dear and honoured relation or friend to a gloomy grave. Thus it is with the affairs of our miſerable world: while ſome are running at the ring of pleaſure, and others are purſuing their different avocations, or fulfilling their various engagements, many a poor mortal, releaſed

leaſed for ever from the buſineſs of life, is going to an eternal home." "It is really to be lamented," ſaid Aſmodeus, ſmiling, "that ſuch a fine and affecting piece of morality ſhould be ſo ill applied; but I cannot reſiſt the wicked pleaſure of informing you, that this ſable proceſſion, which has filled your mind with ſuch ſolemn ideas, is nothing more than a band of ſmugglers; who, under the appearance of a ſplendid funeral, are conveying a large quantity of rich prohibited goods to a place of ſecurity." "You muſt acknowledge, however," ſaid the aſtoniſhed Spaniard, "that no one but a devil could have made the diſcovery—" "except a Cuſtom-houſe officer," anſwered the Demon; "and a party of that fraternity are conveniently poſted to make a ſeizure of your melancholy hearſe and its ſad contents; but inſtead of conſigning them to a gloomy grave, they will honour the whole with a Roman funeral, by conſigning them to the flames with great ſolemnity, before the gates of the Cuſtom-houſe.

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There indeed," continued he, "in the *vis-à-vis* that paſſes before us, there is a poor mortal haſtening to her eternal home, faſter than her nimble-footed bays, and as faſt as time can carry her." "Gracious Heavens," exclaimed Don Perez, "what can you mean?—the fluſh of health is on her cheek, and ſhe ſeems formed but to command love and create deſire."—"Alas, my dear friend," ſaid Aſmodeus, "how appearances deceive you mortals!—She is an exact counterpart of the ſepulchre where ſhe will ſhortly repoſe. Fair without, and charming to the eye, but within, nothing but filth and rotteneſs." "The gentlemen of the Cuſtom-houſe," replied Don Cleofas, "will not, I truſt, ſeize her cargo as contraband." "By no means," anſwered the Demon; "but they ought not to admit it into port till ſhe has produced a bill of health."

"Theſe ſuperb houſes which you ſee to the right and left," ſaid the Devil upon

Two Sticks, as they paſſed down St. James's-ſtreet, "have been erected by different ſocieties of people of faſhion, for the ſole purpoſe of gaming with convenience; but as they are not generally frequented in the day time, I muſt contrive to afford you a peep into them during our nocturnal excurſions.—And that old building," continued he, "which we are now approaching, is the entrance of the Palace, whoſe back-front you have already ſeen from the Park." "And the nation," ſaid Don Cleofas, "ought to be aſhamed of it." "They are ſo," replied the Demon; "and there the matter ends.—The King, who has a ſcientific knowledge of architecture, poſſeſſed an ardent wiſh, and, as it is believed, a full determination, when he firſt aſcended the throne, to erect a palace worthy the ſovereign of ſo great an empire; but the war in which the kingdom was then engaged,—the domeſtic broils and party confuſions that diſturbed the nation, before it had recovered its ſtrength from the reſtoratives

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of peace, with the riſe, progreſs, and conſequences of the American troubles, have hitherto prevented, and will now, in all probability, for ever prevent him from executing this favourite deſign."

As they entered the Park,—"The houſe to the left of us," ſaid Aſmodeus, "is inhabited by the deſcendant of a noble Duke, whoſe name made Europe tremble, and has the ſtamp of immortality impreſſed upon it. The inheritor of his titles poſſeſſes none of the activity, and as little of the genius of his glorious anceſtor; but, having the good ſenſe to diſcover, that he has not the talents requiſite to ſhine in the buſtle of public buſineſs, he contents himſelf with maintaining a private dignity, purſuing tranquil amuſements, and practiſing the domeſtic virtues. Though ſome of his expences have been ſplendid,—ſuch is the good humour of mankind,—he is accuſed, as well as his Ducheſs, of an œconomical diſpoſition, diſgraceful to his immenſe

menſe fortune.—Œconomy, however, is no inconſiderable virtue, and a failure of it, where a numerous and growing family look for proviſion, ſuitable to their high rank, is not only a folly but a crime.—This noble Duke is guilty of neither,—and every wiſe man will applaud him."

As they walked down the Mall, "I muſt entreat you, my good friend," ſaid the Demon, "to favour with your particular attention, the elderly gentleman who has this moment taken the ſeat to the right: As we paſs, caſt an eye of obſervation on him.—He is one of the moſt ſingular perſons that a nation, remarkable for the great variety of its characters, at this time poſſeſſes.—After dinner, I will amuſe you, for half an hour, with his uncommon hiſtory." I perceive nothing," ſaid Don Cleofas, "that is particular in his appearance or phyſiognomy;" "and that is," interrupted Aſmodeus, "one of the peculiar circumſtances, by which he ſhapes the courſe

courſe of his ſingular, unſuſpected, and not unprofitable life."

"That large, but heavy edifice before us, and beneath which we are about to paſs, is called the *Horſe-Guards*, becauſe the cavalry on the King's duty, mounts guard there. It alſo contains apartments for the holding of courts-martial, and other buſineſs relative to the army —It was a public work, and ought therefore to have poſſeſſed all the architectural beauty which it was capable of receiving; but, like many, indeed one might ſay, like moſt public works, it was a job; in which the emoluments of thoſe who were employed, were conſidered in preference to the character and magnificence of the nation to whom it belongs."

When they came to Whitehall—"That ſuperb building," continued the Demon, "is part of a royal palace, which, for the honour of the nation, ought to have been

been completed. It is the work of an Engliſh architect; and if it had been his only deſign, would have placed his name in the rank it now holds among the firſt of his profeſſion. It is alſo remarkable for having been the theatre of one of the moſt ſtriking events of modern hiſtory.—On a ſcaffold, in the front of, and contiguous to the building, Charles the Firſt, an unfortunate ſovereign of this country, was doomed to loſe his head by the hands of a public executioner, and on the condemnation of a ſelf-created tribunal of his own ſubjects. It is called the Banquetting-houſe; and did, indeed, produce an unexampled feaſt, to glut the republican zealots of the laſt century."— "I remember the ſtory well," ſaid Don Cleofas; "and it is on the anniverſary of this extraordinary execution, according to a wicked wit, named Voltaire, that every Monarch in Europe riſes from his bed with a crick in his neck." "He was an unlucky rogue," ſaid Aſmodeus, "and a very great favourite

ite of our community.—But I muſt claim your attention to that little man, dreſſed in blue, who looks up ſo attentively to the building, and, pulling of his hat, makes a moſt reverential obeiſance as he paſſes."

"I preſume," ſaid Don Cleofas, "he is ſome great admirer of architectural beauty; and it is in this manner, without doubt, that he manifeſts his veneration for a *chef d'œuvre* in his favourite ſcience." "It was impoſſible for you to gueſs," replied Aſmodeus, "unleſs you were inſpired, that this ſilly man is nothing more than a zealous republican, who offers this mark of reſpect to the edifice before us, whenever he paſſes it, becauſe it was the ſcene of a royal execution. He is a tradeſman of this city, who fancies himſelf a very profound politician:—And though he would not ſcruple to tread upon the neck of a King, he does not diſcover the leaſt delicacy, when an occaſion offers, in charging home on the purſes of ſubjects. But this is not all:—

all:—the fine equeſtrian ſtatue juſt before us, is a repreſentation of the unhappy Monarch we have already mentioned:" — "And that is an object," interrupted Don Cleofas, "which the little republican tradeſman would, I ſuppoſe, avoid with the utmoſt precaution:"— "By no means," anſwered the Demon, "for he has more than once riſqued a fractured limb from the paſſing carriages, in order to diſcharge his rheum upon the Pedeſtal.

"That noble pile of building," continued he, "which we are approaching, contains a part of the royal ſtables; and the ſtately form of it, has given occaſion to have it obſerved, with ſomething of wit in the ſarcaſm, that his Majeſty's ſtables have the appearance of a palace, and that his palace is not treated unjuſtly, when it is ſaid to have the appearance of a ſtable.

"But," continued he, "we will now, if you pleaſe, finiſh our morning's excurſion,

and return to our hotel, which we ſhall reach in a few minutes; and I doubt not, my friend, that you will be well pleaſed with the good dinner it is preparing for you. Your mind, as you well know, is ſpiritual, and I will undertake to nouriſh it with my kind of ſpiritual ſuſtenance; but as for your body, it is good fleſh and blood; to ſupport which, you muſt have recourſe to cooks who are made of the ſame materials."

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Wherein the DEVIL *upon* TWO STICKS *fulfils his Promiſe of relating to* DON CLEOFAS LEANDRO PEREZ ZAMBULLO, *the Hiſtory of the Gentleman he ſaw in the Park.*

DON CLEOFAS having finiſhed his dinner in great comfort, reminded the Demon of the promiſe he made to entertain him with an account of the gentleman whom he had particularly recommended to his attention, as they paſſed through the Park. "Let me firſt, my dear ſir," ſaid Aſmodeus, "prepare your coffee, and then you will be ſo good as to prepare your attention." This little arrangement being ſettled, the Devil upon Two Sticks began the following ſingular relation:

An hiſtorical Deſcription of the UNIVERSAL SPY, *or Unſuſpected Politician.*

"Mr. ————, for that is the gentleman's name," ſaid Aſmodeus, "is deſcended from a family of great reſpect among the antient gentry of the North of England: his father, who was a younger brother, was, in the earlieſt part of life, a ſupercargo in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company; but an old maiden aunt leaving him a very handſome fortune, he never repeated his voyage, and left his original, as well as acquired property, very much improved, at his death, to his only ſon, the object of our preſent conſideration, who was then about eight years old, and had been, for ſome time, placed at a private ſchool of reputation, in the neighbourhood of *London*.—The valuable woman, his mother, had died about two years before; a circumſtance which was the principal cauſe of his father's death, whoſe

whoſe ſenſibility could not bear up againſt ſuch an irreparable loſs: ſo that our young gentleman was left to the care of two diſtant relations, who, with unremitting attention, fulfilled the directions his father gave concerning his education, when he lay on his death-bed. As they are of ſingular excellence,—and as they may, in ſome ſmall degree, account for the character of the ſon, I will repeat them to you.

" When this worthy gentleman found that he was drawing nigh to his end, he ſent for the two relations whom he had appointed to be his executors; and, after thanking them, again and again, for their friendſhip, during a life which was now approaching its period, he entreated them to transfer it to the little boy he ſhould leave behind him. ' You well know,' ſaid he, ' that the death of that excellent wo-
' man, my wife, has greatly, if not altoge-
' ther, contributed to bring me to the ſitu-

'ation in which you now behold me:—It 'may be thought, indeed, that, as ſhe left 'me a ſon, I ought, for the ſake of them 'both, to have ſtruggled with life more 'willingly, and, of courſe, more effectually 'than I have done:—But I am fully con-'vinced, that my ſenſibilities are ſuch as to 'diſqualify me for the taſk of educating a 'child as I ought; and it will probably be 'a very great advantage to him that I am 'taken hence; by which event, the buſineſs 'of preparing him for the world, will de-'volve upon thoſe who are ſo much better 'qualified to execute the important bu-'ſineſs. I ſhall,' continued he, 'trouble 'you with the care of my ſon's fortune, 'till he has attained the age of twenty-five 'years. For this reſtraint, he, perhaps, at 'twenty-one, will not thank me, but at 'thirty, he will be of a different opinion; 'and I would rather that the memory of 'his father ſhould be accompanied with the 'gratitude of his mature, than his more 'early years. You will fix him firm in the

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'path of honour, for you are honourable 'men. You will teach him to deteſt a baſe 'action in others, and to ſhudder at it in 'himſelf, as you have both of you done 'throughout your lives. Tell him that the 'language of truth is ſuperior to all the 'languages of the world, and that the ſci-'ence of an honeſt man, is the ſupreme 'knowledge of life. Inſtruct him in the art 'of doing good to others, without injury to 'himſelf; and teach him, if poſſible, to 'guard againſt the frequent inconvenience 'of ſenſibility, if that ſhould prove a part 'of his heritage, by the precautions of pru-'dence; and as he will poſſeſs a gentleman's 'fortune, inſpire him to enjoy it with the 'ſpirit of a gentleman.'—Theſe were almoſt the laſt words of the dying man; and, as far as depended upon the care of thoſe to whom they were addreſſed, the requeſts they conveyed were punctually fulfilled.

" At this period, the boy had diſcover-ed no token of any peculiarity of charac-

ter or genius, and he remained like the generality of boys of his age, till, about three years after, a circumſtance aroſe, which ſeems to have given the prevailing colour of his future life.

"In the immediate vicinity of his ſchool, there lived a gentleman of large fortune, and equal benevolence, who, during the ſummer ſeaſon, was continually ſending preſents of fruit to his young neighbours, as he was pleaſed to call them, of the ſchool. However, ſome among the elder members of this community, proved their deſcendancy from the common mother, *Eve*, by poſſeſſing a ſtronger propenſity to forbidden fruit, than that which came from a gratuitous hand. Under this fatal, but hereditary impreſſion, they formed a plan to rob the garden of that kind benefactor, from the produce of which, and the kindneſs of whom, they were ſo often and ſo plentifully regaled.

"Our

"Our young hero, ſhocked at the ingratitude of ſuch a ſcheme, but not daring to take any open methods to oppoſe it, employed his whole thoughts how he might circumvent the diſgraceful project. Many different ſchemes ſuggeſted themſelves to his mind, but they all ended in a determination to write a notice of the deſign, as well as he could, in printed characters, and to introduce it into one of the large common prayer-books belonging to the gentleman's pew, in the pariſh church: And though he, at that time, poſſeſſed all the puerile fears of ghoſts and goblins, he had the courage, very late in the evening, when ſome of the pariſhioners were ringing a peal, to enter the church, and execute his deſign. On the Sunday following, the gentleman found the paper, took proper meaſures to prevent the intended robbery of his garden, and, in compliance with the wiſh expreſſed in this extraordinary notice, never purſued any enquiry after the

writer of it, or made any mention whatever, of the circumſtances relating to it.

" The ſucceſs of this firſt undertaking, ſeems to have ſtamped at once that peculiar mark on his character which it ſtill bears, and which will only be effaced by the hand of death. He now became more ſerious and thoughtful than he had hitherto been; and, during the times of recreation, his mind was continually employed in contriving ſome ſecret act of good-nature, humanity, or, what he conceived to be juſtice. Among many of his arrangements, at this period, I ſhall ſelect one, merely as an example of the reſt. Several of the ſcholars having declared an intention to bathe in a certain large pond, at ſome diſtance from the ſchool, which he had good reaſon to apprehend was of a depth, in many parts of it, which might endanger their lives, he gave a man half-a-crown to meet them there, as by chance, and to terrify them from their deſign by the poſitive information,

formation, that the piece of water was ſtocked with hedge-hogs.

" His maſter alſo was indebted to an item of the ſame ſecret management for his removal from the laborious drudgery of a ſchool, to the eaſe and comfort of a valuable benefice. At this time he was become a parlour boarder, and uſed always to dine with his maſter; and that gentleman being one day urged by a friend at his table, to apply for a vacant living in the neighbourhood, he declared, with a ſigh, that although the preferment in queſtion, would make him one of the happieſt men in the world, he could not bring himſelf to aſk for it, if he were even certain that it would be immediately granted to his requeſt.

" On this idea, our young gentleman ſet himſelf inſtantly to work; wrote an anonymous letter to the patron of the living; and, when night approached, hav-

ing diſguiſed himſelf in the gardener's great coat, he ran two miles to deliver it at the Lodge of the Park. It was immediately forwarded to the houſe; and the gentleman, to whom it was addreſſed, read as follows:—'Why, Sir, do you heſitate a 'moment, to whom you ſhould preſent 'your vacant living?—The maſter of the 'neighbouring ſchool poſſeſſes merit, as 'you well know, that deſerves every thing; 'and at the ſame time is adorned with 'a moſt amiable modeſty, which will not 'ſuffer him to aſk for any thing.'—The ſingularity of this laconic epiſtle, happened to hit the whim of the moment; and as the gentleman was peſtered and plagued with continual applications for the benefice in queſtion, he inſtantly determined to put an end, at once, to all the trouble of ſolicitation, by yielding to the ſuggeſtions of his anonymous correſpondent; and, without communicating the why or the wherefore, the very next morning, ſent the preſentation,

ſentation, executed in all due form, to the aſtoniſhed and unſuſpecting ſchool-maſter.

"While Mr. ——— was at the Univerſity, he employed the intervals of ſevere ſtudy, in the indulgence of his extraordinary and ſingular taſte for ſecret actions. Under the veil of an apparent inattention to what was paſſing around him, he contrived to inform himſelf of every thing; and being very aſſiduous in proſecuting his ſtudies, and minutely regular in all the College duties, he was the laſt perſon whom the moſt ſcrutinizing would have regarded as the author of the different anonymous notices which, from time to time, flew about the Univerſity, during his reſidence there; many of which were productive of private and public utility, without giving juſt cauſe of complaint to any individual whatever.

"At this time, the leading principle of his actions was that of doing good to all, without

without giving pain to any; and he was ſo happy as to have found it, in ſome degree, practicable within the walls of a college:—But as he advanced in life, and had acquired a little more experience of human affairs, his diſpoſition underwent a change; and the deſire of doing things in a ſecret and ſingular manner, predominated over every other conſideration. Philanthropy now became a ſecondary principle with him, and humour was to be indulged, before what remained of ſentiment could be gratified. He would give a crown to a beggar who only aſked for a halfpenny, rather from a deſire to ſee the aſtoniſhment ſuch a bounteous and unexpected alms would occaſion, than from a reflection on the happineſs it would afford to the craving mendicant. At one time he indulged the conceit of filling a pocket with ſlices of bread and meat, well ſtrewed with ſalt, and carefully wrapped up in ſeparate papers; and when a beggar implored his charity, inſtead of money, he uſed to preſent

ſent him one of theſe cold collations, not ſo much from a charitable refinement, as from a certain ſatisfaction he felt in obſerving the kind of ſurpriſe or temper with which ſuch an unexpected boon would be received. He continued this uncommon practice till a ſturdy beggar, to whom he had given a cold mutton-chop in the uſual form, aſked him, in a ſaucy tone, if he took him for a dog, that he gave him a bone? and threw it, without any ceremony, in his face.—This circumſtance was the ſource of much quiet mirth to him at the time, and has occaſionally ſerved to amuſe his fancy to the preſent hour. When he was in Ireland, finding a poor family by the way-ſide, the children of which had never taſted meat, he bought a leg of mutton at the next town, took it himſelf to the cabin they inhabited, ſuperintended the cooking of it, and having amuſed himſelf with ſeeing the joint devoured, he gave the mother wherewithal to buy a couple of ſheep, and took his leave; ſatisfied rather

with

with the ſight of half a dozen boys and girls eating meat for the firſt time, than affected with the grateful bleſſings which accompanied his departure.

"In this manner did our young gentleman ſhape his courſe.—On quitting the Univerſity, he employed four years in making an inquiſitive, but ſolitary tour, for he always travelled alone, through every part of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and their adjacent iſlands; and, at the concluſion of it, having attained the age of twenty-five years, he entered into poſſeſſion of the eſtate his father had left him, and ſet off ſoon afterwards, to make a ſimilar tour through every part of the European continent, and the nethermoſt borders of Aſia and Africa.

"In this tour he employed ten years; and, at the end of that period, knew more of the languages, cuſtoms, policy, commerce, arts and character of the different nations

and

and ſtates of Europe, than any perſon in it. He viſited the iſlands of the *Archipelago*, reſided for ſome time in *Conſtantinople*, viſited antient *Greece*, examined the *Pyramids*, and, having traverſed, at great hazard of his life, a conſiderable part of the empire of *Morocco*, arrived at *Tetuan*, and paſſed over to *Gibraltar*, in the hope of obtaining a paſſage from thence, by ſea, to his native country; but there not being any immediate opportunity of returning to *England*, he became impatient, and went on board a veſſel bound for *Genoa*; from thence he paſſed through *Savoy* into *Switzerland*, where he propoſed to while away a few months, and return home by the way of France:—But this deſign was alſo interrupted.

"The day after his arrival at *Conſtance*, he was ſeized with a fever, that was attended with very alarming ſymptoms, and from which his recovery was very tedious.—When he began to gain a little ſtrength, he went

went to lodge at the houſe of his phyſician, by whoſe care, and the kind attention of his beautiful daughter, he was at length reſtored to his former ſtate of health and activity. This charming girl he ſoon after married; and, perhaps, the oddity of an Engliſh gentleman of fortune forming a matrimonial connection with the daughter of a German phyſician at *Conſtance*, might ſhare the palm of this connubial union, with the perſonal charms and amiable qualifications of the young lady.

At this place he reſided upwards of four years, without once quitting it, but to make an occaſional and haſty trip to *Geneva*, where his letters of credit were addreſſed. Nor is it poſſible to determine how long he would have remained in this ſituation, if if death had not diſſolved his marriage.—Mrs. ——— had already given him two children, who ſcarce ſurvived their birth; but in bringing a third into the world, ſhe herſelf quitted it for ever, and took

took her offspring with her. Soon after this event, he purchaſed a ſmall eſtate in the neighbourhood of *Conſtance* for his father-in-law, and haſtened, with all poſſible expedition, to *England*.

"His wife was a woman who would have been adored by moſt men, and ſhe was ſincerely eſteemed by him. Nay, he will now, at times, in ſpite of all his fancies, make faſt his door, and, placing a fine miniature picture of her on his table, look at, and converſe with it, for an hour together: and, having indulged ſomething like a flow of ſentiment,—the predominant humour will then take its turn; when he will laugh moſt heartily to think that his peculiarities are placed by his relations and acquaintance to the ſcore of his being an old bachelor, when he was, in fact, a married man upwards of four years, and had been the father of three children, as he would ſay to himſelf, ſuch as they were.

"On

"On his return to *England*, he ſeemed to all who had known him before, to have fallen, as it were, from ſome other planet; and he found, to his entire ſatisfaction, that the courſe of his various routes was known only as the letters of his banker had betrayed it; and that the particular circumſtances of his travels were as ſecret as he could wiſh them. He avoids, as much as poſſible, the making any new acquaintance, and contents himſelf with the ſociety of his relations; who, from a regard to his many good qualities, as well as, perhaps, ſome natural expectations of what he may leave behind him, are in a continual ſtate of emulation to acquire his favour. He receives their attentions with good humour, deals out his kindneſs with generoſity, and pleaſes himſelf with thinking how each of them, who expects a preference in his will, will be reſpectively diſappointed, when it ſhall be diſcovered that he has made no will whatever; but has left the law to diſtribute his fortune in ſuch proportions, among

among them all; as their various degrees of conſanguinity may give them a right to claim.

"When I ſay that he is the moſt learned and the beſt informed man of the times in which he lives, I do not mean to diſparage thoſe who enjoy the firſt rank in the republic of letters, as well as in the academies and cabinets of any country; and while he is conſcious of his own ſuperiority, he finds his particular humour gratified in obſerving, that no one appears to have diſcovered that he has any claim to it. His great object, after a ſtrict obſervance of the moral duties, is, to appear to be what he is not, or rather to throw an innocent veil over what he is;—and his ſucceſs is equal to his wiſhes.

"But he does not wrap up his talents in a napkin; all orders of men, and in almoſt every part of the kingdom, are, by ſome means or other, occaſionally inſtructed by him;

him; and they who are at the head of it, are inſtructed the moſt. From long habit, he has acquired the art of expreſſing his thoughts on the moſt profound and complicated, as well as the more elegant ſubjects, with a degree of accuracy, perſpicuity, and preciſion, that is ſeldom found in the compoſitions of the beſt writers.

"He purchaſes his writing materials as he ſaunters about the town, ſometimes in one part of it, and ſometimes in another; and when he retires to his chamber at night, after having bolted the inner door, and ſeen that all is faſt, he indites his laconic epiſtles on the night-table by his bedſide, encloſes them in unſuſpicious envelopes, and quietly drops them into the boxes of receipt for letters, in that part of the town where his next morning's walk may lead him. But this is not all; he has acquired the art of varying the characters of his writing at pleaſure and without end: a faculty which proves extremely uſeful indeed,

indeed, to the accompliſhment of his deſigns.

" Miniſters of every department receive from him the moſt curious information, and the moſt important inſtruction: but Miniſters are ſo univerſally governed by their own paſſions, intereſts and neceſſities, that he has been the leaſt uſeful where his ſuggeſtions are calculated to be the moſt beneficial. The lawn and the ermine are greatly indebted to him; and I will take an opportunity of ſhewing you a phyſician, who has riſen into eminence by adopting the hints of this anonymous inſtructor. Profeſſors of the arts, and teachers of ſcience, are not without their obligations to him; and a very celebrated actor of the preſent age, who had received from this ſource a regular ſeries of criticiſms on every branch of theatrical exhibition, was tempted, again and again, to publiſh them as his own, and would moſt gladly have done it, if he could have ſuppoſed, for a mo-

a moment, that the original writer of them would have been contented that another ſhould ſteal his immortality from him.

" Nor are there any of the inferior bodies or ſocieties of men, who are not, at ſome time or other, indebted to him, for throwing new lights on their reſpective objects, or aiding the purpoſes of their reſpective inſtitutions. But his notices are not confined to the court or the city: they ſometimes pervade, and have been of ſervice to the diſtant provinces. The manufacturer has been aſſiſted by his ſuggeſtions; and it muſt ariſe from their own obſtinacy, if the farmer who cultivates the ſurface of the earth, and the miner who ſearches into the bowels of it, have not received advantage from his inſtructions.

" The pleaſures and happineſs of individuals are alſo the objects of his concern. If he ſees a curious book upon a ſtall, or a valuable picture at a broker's, he will con-

contrive to give immediate information to ſome one, whoſe library will be enriched, or whoſe cabinet enhanced, by ſuch an acquiſition. It was but laſt week that he gave notice, in his uſual way, to a celebrated collector of medals, where he might find, and acquire for a trifle, the very coins he had long ſought after in vain, to compleat a moſt curious ſeries of them. The antiquarian is ſo delighted with his acquiſition, that he has made a codicil to his will, on purpoſe to bequeath a legacy of two hundred pounds to any perſon who can prove himſelf to be the author of this valuable intelligence. If Mr. —— ſhould, by ſurvivorſhip, become acquainted with this event, it will afford him many a jovial hour.

"As he goes every where, and obſerves every thing, he has ſometimes contrived to point out genius in obſcurity, and talents that were unknown. The fairer part of the creation has ſometimes, though very rarely, been favoured with his atten-

tion. He ſees the irreſiſtible predominance of faſhion, and knows the human, or rather the female heart, too well to believe, that anonymous remonſtrance will preponderate in the mind of youth and beauty, againſt the influence of perſonal flattery or faſhionable propenſity. He has, however, ventured to convey his obſervations on virtue, manners and taſte, to the toilettes of ſome very diſtinguiſhed females. To one lady, in particular, of very high rank, he incloſed an eſſay on education, to whoſe anonymous inſtructions her daughters are greatly indebted, for their acknowledged ſuperiority among the higher orders of female youth.

"In this manner he has employed, with very little interruption, the laſt ten years of his life; and in the ſame manner he will continue to employ the reſt of his days; which a good conſtitution, a temperate conduct and an eaſy mind, will help to continue to no common period, always enjoying the ſolitary joke of doing ſo much,

and

and not being ſuſpected by thoſe with whom he lives of doing any thing.

"If this hiſtory," obſerved the Devil upon Two Sticks, "were given to the world, it would be conſidered as the offſpring of ſome fantaſtic invention. But I do aſſure you," continued he, "that ſuch a character does this day exiſt; and that the elderly gentleman, ſitting on the bench in Saint James's Park, whom I, a few hours ago, recommended to your attention, is that unexaggerated character.

"Having thus performed my promiſe," ſaid Aſmodeus, "and given you a portrait that the Engliſh nation alone could produce, we will now, if you pleaſe, proceed to the comedy, where a new ſcene of amuſement and inſtruction will preſent itſelf before you." Don Cleofas readily conſented to the propoſal; and, in a very ſhort time, they were advantageouſly placed in one of the Theatres, ſo as to have an equal view of the audience and the actors.

CHAP. V.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

DON CLEOFAS, enchanted with the brilliant appearance of the Theatre, could not refrain from expreſſing the complete ſatisfaction he enjoyed in the contemplation of it. "This ſpectacle alone," he exclaimed, "is well worth the trouble of coming from *Madrid* to behold, even if I had purſued my journey in the common mode, and ſuffered all the inconveniencies which are experienced by common travellers. Our theatres in Spain are dungeons when compared with this: the audience here are as viſible as the actors:"—"and ſhall be," interrupted the Demon, "as pregnant with amuſement to you. The firſt ſtages were erected in tenniscourts, and by a ſtrange, unaccountable pre-

prejudice, the greater part of Europe ſtill preſerves that inconvenient form: while, partly from œconomy, and, perhaps, to heighten the brilliance of the ſtage, that part of the theatre is ſeen, in other countries, to confine all the illumination to itſelf.

"But in this country of wealth and good ſenſe, theſe matters are, as you ſee, much better managed: though, perhaps, there never was a period when the Engliſh ſtage was at a lower ebb than at the preſent moment. It cannot boaſt one tragic actor of ſuperior merit; and a ſingle actreſs, whoſe performance you will preſently witneſs, alone ſupports the dignity and pathos of the tragic ſcene. You will ſee the power that ſhe is about to exert over this numerous and ſplendid audience; though in the particular character which ſhe is to perform, there are circumſtances of diſtreſs ſo very affecting, as to give her acting a degree of influence which ſhe does not poſſeſs in any other character.

" In comedy the ſtage is much better ſupported, though grimace actually threatens to baniſh that juſt repreſentation of nature in which the perfection of theatrical repreſentation conſiſts. In ſhort, the pure taſte of former times begins to loſe ground, and the tragedy which contrives to command tears, and the comedy which contrives to compel laughter, though nature has nothing to do with either, will, according to the diſpoſition of the preſent day, be almoſt certain of the popular approbation.'

" But what," exclaimed Don Cleofas, " can be the cauſe of this ſudden uproar, which proceeds, as I think, from the gallery above us." " It is nothing more," anſwered Aſmodeus, " than a little eruption of liberty, which proves the ſtrength of the conſtitution that throws it forth. The lower claſſes generally occupy that part of the theatre from whence this vociferation proceeds; and the object of it, at preſent, is to direct the orcheſtra to perform

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one of thoſe popular tunes which never fail, in this country, to charm the ear and elevate the ſpirits of vulgar patriotiſm. But the curtain riſes; and I muſt now, if you pleaſe, direct your whole attention to the ſtage. As the ſcenes proceed, I ſhall juſt hint to you the leading circumſtances of them.

" The actreſs I have already mentioned to you, is at this moment making her entrance, and is received, as you hear, with the moſt unbounded applauſe from every part of the theatre. She is, as I before intimated, the moſt eminent tragedian of the preſent day; and has been honoured with a greater degree of public favour, than was ever beſtowed, by the Engliſh nation, on a woman in her ſituation. As ſhe proceeds in her part, you will perceive the progreſs of her power over the audience before her. This crowded aſſembly which, when we firſt entered, looked ſo gay, will ſoon be diſſolved in one uni-

verſal ſympathy; and that hum of pleaſure, which preceded the riſing of the curtain, will ſink into the ſilence of the grave. Already you may obſerve, how every countenance anſwers to the feelings which ſhe awakens in the heart." "Indeed," ſaid Don Cleofas, "I myſelf, who am ignorant of the language ſhe ſpeaks, begin to feel the aſcendancy of her magic powers; and if the mere tones of her voice, if her looks and geſtures have ſuch an effect upon me, I cannot be ſurpriſed at the influence ſhe exerciſes over an audience, who, to the power of what they ſee, feel the added charm of what they hear and underſtand. Already I perceive many a white handkerchief preparing to be moiſtened with the ſtreams whoſe ſources ſhe will unlock." "Women are eaſily affected," obſerved the Demon; "a little ſtage trick will generally command their tears; and though there is a conſiderable portion of it employed in this evening's exhibition, yet, when you ſee a large body of people, compoſed of the dif-

different ſexes, and conſiſting of perſons of every age, temper, and ſituation; I ſay, when you ſee ſuch an audience as that around you, melted into a general ſympathetic ſorrow, it would be the moſt obſtinate injuſtice not to acknowledge, that the ſkill which is capable of working up the ſcene to ſuch an effect, is of a very ſuperior nature.

"Obſerve that man dreſſed in black," continued Aſmodeus, "in one of the lower boxes oppoſite to us, who is affected with ſuch violent emotions, that he is obliged to retire to a back-ſeat:—he is a great law officer, to whom any ſenſibility of a tender nature, has never been imputed.—He paſſes ſentence on the devoted criminal without any apparent diſtreſs; in pronouncing the awful fiat of rigid juſtice, he was never yet ſeen to ſhed a tear: nay, the execution of that ſolemn duty, does not check the ordinary appetite for his dinner: Nevertheleſs, the actreſs now on

the ſtage, makes him ſhake from mental agitation."

"I verily believe," ſaid Don Cleofas, wiping his cheeks, "that ſhe would draw tears from the eyes of an inquiſitor."—"How that might be," replied Aſmodeus, "I ſhall not pretend to determine; but this I know, and which is of more conſequence to her, ſhe draws a very conſiderable income from the approbation of the public." "She loves money then, perhaps, as much as reputation," ſaid Don Cleofas. "Much better," anſwered the Demon, "and has given ample proofs of a very narrow ſpirit: ſhe is only great when ſhe is acting; the lady is little enough when ſhe returns to herſelf. But, perhaps, ſhe may foreſee, what will one day happen, that ſhe will perform to thoſe benches alone, which are now ſo covered with admiring ſpectators, and therefore is determined to make the moſt of popular favour while it laſts. The public naturally become fatigued with the

the repetition of excellence itſelf. This lady has a brother alſo, who, without a ſingle natural qualification to make a good actor, conſiders himſelf as one of the firſt theatrical performers in the world; and has, beſides, got poſſeſſion of an idea, that his critical knowledge of the ſtage is equal to his acting. His ſiſter, unfortunately, is of the ſame opinion, and by ſubmitting to his judgment, ſhe is daily diminiſhing the excellence ſhe had attained by the guidance of her own.

" The actor who performs the principal part with her, is a man of education and amiable manners; who, without poſſeſſing the firſt claſs of theatrical talents, is a ſenſible, an uſeful, and leading performer; though his better parts are in the line of comedy. His theatrical character, meets with the approbation of the public; and his conduct, as a private individual, has rendered him eſtimable in the opinion of all who know him. As for

thoſe who fill up the under parts of the piece, they are not worthy of our attention either for their public merits or their private virtues; and I will not withdraw your attention from the performance, by any further interruption."

The play being, at length, concluded, the Demon deſired Don Cleofas to direct his obſervation to a very handſome woman in the ſtage-box: "That is," ſaid Aſmodeus, "a married lady of quality, who is a moſt lovely pattern of conjugal affection; nevertheleſs, malice had contrived to inſert, in one of the public papers, a moſt ſcandalous and diſgraceful charge of infidelity to her lord. Her innocence did not protect her from that envy of her ſex, which, like its ſhadow, waits upon ſuperior beauty; and the fabrication ſerved, for a ſhort time, to furniſh malignity with its daily meal; but though the wretched invention was ſoon forgotten, and the publiſhers of it ſeverely puniſhed, ſhe has not yet entirely recovered

recovered her former flow of ſpirits; and it will be long, perhaps, before ſhe will be able to ſmother the remembrance of an event, which is ſcarce to be found in any memory but her own.

"In the next box is a lady who ſhould ſacrifice liberally to fortune, if the gifts of that capricious goddeſs were always accompanied with any thing like a ſolid proſperity. She was a kitchen-ſervant, out of place, who happened to ſit down on a bench in St. James's Park, at the very moment when a rich, whimſical knight, enraged at the conduct of his relations towards him, took the ſame ſeat, with a determination to aſk the hand of the firſt woman to whom chance might give him an opportunity of making a propoſal. A converſation immediately took place between them, and the matrimonial offer was no ſooner made than accepted: the next morning ſaw it competed; and the culinary damſel entered at once into the poſſeſſion of wealth,

honours, and a huſband. To vex his relations, the Knight encouraged his bride in all the extravagance of dreſs and equipage, with which, for ſome time, ſhe aſtoniſhed and amuſed the town; and, at his death, which happened in a very few years after her marriage, ſhe found herſelf the legatee of every thing which it was in his power to bequeath. The poor ſervant-maid, paſſing through the eclat of a ſplendid wife, was now become a very wealthy widow. The relations of her late huſband, however, inſtituted a claim to what ſhe poſſeſſed, and threatened to purſue their pretended rights with all the vexations of the law. Ignorant as ſhe was of the world, and alarmed at the menaces of theſe people, ſhe ſought protection in the arms of a diſſipated man of family; who, by becoming her huſband, acquired the right of defending her property from the attacks which were made upon it; and having ſucceeded in confirming the legal poſſeſſion to her, he, very naturally, took poſſeſſion of it himſelf, and very

very unceremoniouſly exerciſed the power he had obtained over it, by applying it to the purpoſes of his own convenience, and the gratification of his own pleaſures. Her life has ſince been ſuch as might be naturally expected in a perſon whoſe mind is uninformed, and whoſe inclinations are unreſtrained; and, in the opinion of moſt people, her title excepted, it will end pretty nearly as it began.

"In the box adjoining," continued Aſmodeus, "there are a young lady and gentleman, who, by their attentions to each other, might be taken for a pair of cooing lovers, or, at leaſt, an enamoured couple, who were married but yeſterday. They are, however, nothing more than brother and ſiſter, who live together in the moſt uninterrupted harmony of brotherly and ſiſterly affection. He is a good-natured, fiddle-faddle man of fortune, with a very weak conſtitution; who, having been educated in the dreſſing-room of his mother, is now

transferred

transferred to that of his ſiſter; to whoſe influence he is tamely ſubmiſſive, and by whoſe gentle counſels he will be perſuaded to ſettle upon her the reverſion of his whole fortune; that ſhe may marry, and produce thoſe heirs to the family, which ſhe has, by ſome means or other, made him imagine, that he is not able to procure for himſelf.

"The gentleman who is almoſt aſleep upon the ſeat behind them, has what is called a renter's ſhare in this theatre, which gives him a free admittance into any part of it;—and though he has no glimmerings of taſte, or the leaſt inclination for theatrical performances, and no knowledge whatever of theatrical merit, he never fails to occupy a ſeat here, every evening, for no other reaſon in the world, but becauſe he can have it for nothing.

"That ſhowy young lady, with brilliants ſparkling about her head-dreſs, in the corner box,

box, is the wife of a worthy, induſtrious, and flouriſhing merchant; and though ſhe is the daughter of an oilman, in Thames-ſtreet, is never happy but when ſhe is paſſing, as ſhe thinks, for a woman of faſhion, in a ſide-box at the play-houſe.— But, according to the original conſtitution of things, all human happineſs is imperfect, and her temporary conſequence is interrupted by the reflection that ſhe muſt return to the vicinity of the Royal Exchange; where ſhe will carry with her a load of diſcontent to trouble the peace of an huſband, who wiſhes to indulge her in every thing, but the quitting a buſineſs which is making him rich, for pride, poverty and contempt, at the weſt-end of the town."

"But I wiſh you to inform me," ſaid Don Cleofas, "concerning a very beautiful woman in the box over that of the fair citizen, whoſe hat is as finely decorated with feathers, as the head of a Mexican princeſs." "Alas!" anſwered the Demon, "the

" the beauty you ſo much admire, the feathers that nod on her brow, and the tawdry dreſs ſhe has on, are none of her's. The firſt is borrowed of art, and the reſt is hired to tempt the gain of the evening. All the treaſure ſhe poſſeſſed was expended to purchaſe the ſeat ſhe now occupies; and, if the lure ſhould fail, ſhe muſt return her decorations to their uſurious owner, and be left without the means of purchaſing a candle to light her to her garret. But ſhe is only one among a little army of meretricious Amazons, who have taken their poſts in every part of the theatre, in order to make their attacks upon the paſſions of the young, and the folly of the old, of the other ſex; numbers of whom frequent theſe places for no other purpoſe but to meet the enemy; not with a view to combat, but to be vanquiſhed, and even to purchaſe the nocturnal chains of a mercenary miſtreſs.—But we muſt return," continued Aſmodeus, " from the audience to the actors. The after-piece is on the point of commencing; and

and you will ſoon perceive that the crowd of ſpectators, who were ſo lately melted into tears by the tragic muſe, will be burſting with laughter at the frolic efforts of her comic ſiſter." "And ſo much," ſaid Don Cleofas, ſmiling, "for the boaſted morality of the drama."

"I comprehend you perfectly well," replied Aſmodeus; "you are of opinion that all idea of moral improvement is overturned, by ſuffering the ribaldry of farce to ſucceed the gravity of tragedy:—But this is not all;—ſo much apprehenſion do the conducters of theatrical amuſements entertain of the danger of virtuous impreſſions from the tragic muſe, that between the acts of the beſt tragedies, the dance, which is, at beſt, but a laſcivious object, is frequently introduced." "And your good friends, the high-plumed Amazons," ſaid Don Cleofas, "they, I fear, are not very aptly formed to aid the good effects of theatrical inſtruction."

"Your

"Your ſarcaſm," anſwered the Demon, "is not wholly miſapplied. The theatre is generally conſidered as a ſchool of wholeſome inſtruction, and a place of rational entertainment; and, as a theoretic deſcription, the opinion may not be ill-founded; but taken in all its practical circumſtances and daily conſequences, I, who may arrogate to myſelf ſome knowledge of the matter, do not heſitate to declare, that the theatres are, very generally ſpeaking, the ſchools of ſeduction; and where the cunning of the ſcene has produced *one* example of averting the influence of vice, or confirming the energy of virtue, I do moſt readily aſſert, that the ribaldry, and what is called the wit of the ſtage, with all the acceſſary circumſtances of the place, have corrupted numbers of innocent minds, and ſeduced the paſſions of thouſands into the dangerous courſes of irregular life. But the opening ſcene now demands your attention.

"The

"The young woman who occupies it, poſſeſſes ſomewhat of a genteel figure, and is rather a favourite with the public:—Though her popularity does not proceed ſo much from any very great merit of her own, as from her being the beſt performer this theatre affords in her line of acting, which is the woman of faſhion. The utmoſt efforts of education are requiſite to give to thoſe of high birth and great fortune, the eaſe and dignity belonging to their ſtation; and even they do not always acquire it. How then can it be expected that a girl, who might be born in a barn, and whoſe ſchool has been a ſtrolling company of comedians, can attain what the moſt unremitted pains, and the continual aſſociation with elegant life, cannot always procure? This actreſs, however, would pleaſe more, if ſhe affected leſs; but this affectation rather increaſes than leſſens.—It is, indeed, a part of herſelf, and not of any character ſhe performs, and ariſes from being eternally dangled after by a married man

man of quality, who is ſeparated from his wife. Nor does this ideal importance terminate here: for, either from the ſuggeſtions of her own ſilly vanity, or the promiſes of his Lordſhip's paſſion, ſhe poſſeſſes a certain expectation, whenever he ſhall loſe his Counteſs, of ſucceeding to the coronet.

"But for real comic powers,—for life, ſpirit and fun,—for a juſt, diſcriminating repreſentation of female foible and folly, the actreſs who has juſt ſet the audience in a roar, poſſeſſes an unrivalled eminence.—The charming, unaffected humour which ſhe gives to the ſcene, is but the counterpart of that eaſy pleaſantry with which ſhe enlivens the ſociety of her private friends, and heightens the native colouring of her private virtues. Nature has endued her with the power to pleaſe; and, whether on the ſtage, or by her own fire-ſide, ſhe never ſwerves from the laws of her kind benefactreſs. She is one, among the very few women of her profeſſion, who have paſſed

paſſed through the fiery trial of a theatre, with the well-merited honour of an unſullied reputation.

"The actor who has juſt entered upon the ſtage, has been a long and meritorious favourite of the town. In his walk of comedy, and it is rather univerſal, he is the firſt of his profeſſion. In all his parts he contrives to pleaſe, but in ſome particular characters, he never was excelled, and has been very rarely equalled.

"As for the reſt,—though moſt of them poſſeſs ſome degree of ſubordinate merit, they do not deſerve a particular attention. The claſs of inferior players forms, in general, a troop of the moſt jovial, abandoned and debauched people in the nation, from a review of whoſe lives, a mind like your's would derive neither amuſement or inſtruction." "But will you not," ſaid Don Cleofas, "now the play is over, afford me a peep behind the curtain?" "By no

no means," anſwered the Demon; "I do not wiſh to unfold a ſcene of depravity to you, which a moderate Devil, like myſelf, cannot look upon without amazement.—In your catholic church," continued he, "comedians are denied the privilege of ſepulture in what is called holy ground; and if you were as well acquainted with them as I am, you would not think this ſuperſtition ſo ill-founded as many others.

"Political writers, and our fraternity is much obliged to them, have urged the neceſſity of theatrical amuſements, for the general benefit of civilized governments:—But, political and moral benefits are continually at variance; for let the defenders of the ſtage ſay what they may,—I repeat it, as an indiſputable truth, that there is no place which is ſo completely calculated for ſowing the firſt ſeeds of evil in the mind, and which offers to the paſſions ſo many and ſuch ready temptations, as the theatres, in their preſent ſtate of regulation. The

The ſong, the dance, and the ſcene, are ſtudiouſly formed to call forth, to captivate and inflame the more dangerous paſſions, while the whole neighbourhood of the theatre is a public market for the groſſeſt gratification of them. I ſhall only detain you a few minutes longer, to recommend that old man to your notice, who is paſſing ſlowly down the pit, leaning upon the arm of a youth, who is his grandſon.

"This man is the ſon of an artiſan in the country, and was bred to the buſineſs of his father; but poſſeſſing a mind ſuperior to his ſtation, and having involved himſelf in difficulties from relieving the diſtreſſes of others, he found it neceſſary, as a refuge from his own, to come up to *London*, where he enliſted in one of the King's regiments of foot-guards. At that time it was a cuſtom to admit perſons behind the ſcenes during the performance, and to preſerve order, a ſoldier was poſted againſt the frontiſpiece on each ſide of the

ſtage. This man being one of the theatrical centinels of the evening, was ſo affected at ſome part of the tragedy then in repreſentation, that he burſt into tears.—This very unuſual circumſtance caught the attention of the houſe; and if this remarkable inſtance of ſenſibility had only produced a momentary applauſe, it would have paſſed off, and been inſtantly forgotten: But it ſo happened, that among the ſpectators there were ſome who thought it diſgraceful in a ſoldier to weep, and had not the underſtanding to know, or ſentiment to feel, that courage and compaſſion are aſſociate virtues. They, therefore, interrupted the applauſe beſtowed on his humane feelings, by a loud and obſtinate hiſs of diſapprobation, which brought on an animated conteſt between the applauding and diſapproving parties, that continued with ſo much vehemence, as to induce the officer of the guard to relieve the centinels, ſo that the circumſtance became a ſubject of public notoriety.—

A gen-

A gentleman who was a witneſs of this intereſting ſcene, was ſo affected at the burſt of ſentiment which the ſoldier diſplayed, that he made the moſt particular enquiries concerning him; and was ſo well ſatisfied with the information he received, that he purchaſed his diſcharge, and not only ſupplied the means of ſetting him up in the buſineſs wherein he had been bred, but by his recommendations, added to the man's own induſtry, made it the ſource of a very plentiful ſubſiſtence to him. This buſineſs he has ſome time ſince reſigned to his ſon, and lives upon the ſavings of his former labour. He has, however, never forgotten the circumſtance to which he owes his preſent comfort,—and when the opportunity offered, has never failed to viſit the play-houſe; when he has always regarded the ſpot where he was ſo remarkable, with a degree of ſenſibility which does him equal honour with that which made his fortune.—He is now, as you may perceive, grown old and feeble; but while he has

ſufficient ſtrength, he will continue, occaſionally, to attend the Theatre, with the devotion of a pilgrim, who returns again and again to the altar whoſe guardian power he believes to have been propitious to him.

" But it is now time for us to begone," added the Demon; " and we will, if you pleaſe, change the mimic ſcenes of the ſtage, for thoſe of real life.—Before you return to your hotel, I will expoſe to your view a few of thoſe which are now performing in the immediate neighbourhood of this place.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

What the DEVIL *upon* TWO STICKS *ſhewed* DON CLEOFAS *in the Vicinity of the Theatre.*

THEY had no ſooner quitted the Play-houſe, than the Demon, taking his friend by the arm, mounted with him to the top of an houſe in the adjoining ſtreet, where they were very commodiouſly placed to command a view of whatever was going forward in that quarter.

"I ſee a very ſingular kind of *tête-à-tête*," ſaid Don Cleofas, "in a room on the firſt floor of the oppoſite houſe, between a ſmart, well-dreſſed woman, and an elderly gentleman, of a plain, but very decent appearance.—Their converſation appears to be of ſuch a ſerious nature, that I ſhould imagine they had been at the Theatre which

we have juſt left, and were conſidering the various affecting circumſtances of the tragedy which was there repreſented." "The buſineſs that occupies their attention," interrupted Aſmodeus, "has ſomewhat of a tragical cataſtrophe mingled with it; tho' I am diſpoſed to believe, that it will convey a comical image or two to your fancy. The gentleman is a very reſpectable merchant, whoſe credit is equal to the firſt of thoſe who tread the Exchange of *London*. He has been a widower many years—preſerves a very formal exterior in his manners—goes to church twice every Sunday, and is continually warning his young acquaintance of the danger of ſeduction, and the wickedneſs of the age. But all his piety and moral wiſdom does not reſtrain him from now and then paying a quiet viſit to the ſnug little brothel in which you now ſee him,—and where he has, this evening, met with an old acquaintance, whom he little expected to ſee in ſuch a place, and who could not ſuppoſe it to be written in the

the chapter of poſſibilities, that ſhe ſhould be introduced to him, on ſuch an occaſion. On entering the room, ſhe ſtopped ſhort on ſeeing him, and could not help exclaiming, in a tone of the utmoſt amazement, 'Heaven bleſs me!—is it poſſible, 'Sir, that it can be you?'—When he replied, with equal ſurprize, 'Lord, Nanny! 'is it poſſible that it can be you?'—However, they were both very ſoon convinced that their eye-ſight, at leaſt, did not deceive them. To explain this matter," continued the Demon, "you muſt know, that Nanny had lived upwards of three years as a ſervant-maid, with this worthy gentleman; and as ſhe was young and well-liking, he had often caſt an eye of concupiſcence upon her; but her demeanour was, at all times, ſo perfectly modeſt and diſcouraging, that he was afraid to riſque the character he ſupported, in making any amorous propoſals to her. On the other hand,—Nanny, who never made her maſter's bed but ſhe wiſhed to partake of it, was ſo con-

vinced of his auſtere virtue, and the regular, well-controuled arrangement of his paſſions, that ſhe never dared to throw out the leering lure of invitation to him, for fear of being inſtantaneouſly turned out of his doors. Tired, however, of the ſober, uncheery life ſhe led in his family,— Nanny, at length, quitted his ſervice, and with a little ſecret aſſiſtance from a journeyman packer in the neighbourhood, quickly got rid of that chaſtity with which ſhe had been ſo long, and ſo unwillingly burthened. From that period, ſhe has ſupported herſelf by the ſale of her charms; and, this night, the hypocrite maid, and the hypocrite maſter, were deſtined to come to a full explanation with each other, on their ſecret merits;—and they are, at this moment, mutually lamenting that they ſhould, both of them, be ſuch complete ideots as to have paſſed three years under the ſame roof, and in a ſtate of daily communication, without having diſcovered each others real inclinations.—But the more melancholy part of

of the ſtory reſts with the old gentleman; for the three years of Nanny's ſervitude with him, formed a very critical part of his life; and ſince they ſeparated, age has come ſo faſt upon him, that his viſits to this quarter of the town, manifeſt rather the depravity of his paſſions, than the power of gratifying them.

"But with reſpect to depravity," continued Aſmodeus, "the room on the ground-floor of the ſame houſe affords an exhibition that almoſt ſhocks your humble ſervant.—The groupe of wanton harlots, who are dancing about the room in every kind of laſcivious attitude, are thus employed to amuſe the gentleman who ſits in a corner of it, and occaſionally claps his hands, as a token of applauſe, when any particular or adroit ſtroke of indecency is committed or uttered; for they are all ſinging as well as dancing; and the language of their ſong is in perfect uniſon with the motion of their bodies. He is a foreign

miniſter, who is fond of diverting himſelf in this depraved and abandoned manner, with the moſt depraved and abandoned women that can be procured for the purpoſe. "But, in the name of wonder!" exclaimed Don Cleofas, "what can be the next feat they are commanded to perform?—for, if my eyes do not deceive me, they are all preparing, without the leaſt ceremony, to ſtrip off every garment that helps to cover them." "Your ſight," replied the Demon, "is true to its purpoſe;—for his libidinous Excellence is going to finiſh his evening's regale, by ſeeing, whether the laſcivious agility of his figurantes will not be encreaſed when they repeat the dance as naked as they were born." "I am amazed that the fiddler himſelf," ſaid Don Cleofas, "can ſupport ſuch a ſpectacle of obſcenity; but I ſuppoſe, poor fellow, that neceſſity has familiarized him to theſe ſhocking ſcenes; or that the bribe is proportioned to the diſgrace of adminiſtering to them." "Do not be alarmed, I beſeech you," anſwered Aſ-

modeus, "for the feelings of the muſician. There is a delicacy in the buſineſs, which, perhaps, you may not ſuſpect,—the fiddler employed by his Excellency, on theſe occaſions, is a blind one.

"But permit me," continued he, "to transfer your attention to two young women in an upper room of the next houſe, who have juſt been performing a ſtrange and cruel ſacrifice at the altar of libidinous paſſion. The favourite lover of one of them, to whom ſhe is attached by affection as well as intereſt, has been ſo long abſent in the country, that ſhe is afflicted with the moſt alarming doubts concerning his return and his fidelity. To haſten the former, and to preſerve the latter, ſhe has had recourſe to a ſuperſtitious rite, which the violence and weakneſs of hope and fear appears to have borrowed from what is recorded of the philtres and love-potions of the darker ages. For this purpoſe, a live pigeon has been cut open, its panting heart

was then taken from the reeking breaſt, and after being transfixed with pins, caſt into the fire and conſumed. They are ſtill pale from the working up of this cruel charm; not ſo much from the barbarity of the buſineſs, as the idea that it is a diabolical invention. For the Devil, as you well know, is the very convenient perſonage to whoſe fertile ſpirit of diſcovery mankind are ſo obliging as to attribute their follies as well as their crimes. However, to ſuch ſtrange arts and curious ſpells do theſe wretched, ignorant females have recourſe, to encourage that hope which is their only ſupport, and is continually threatening to abandon them. For, among the moſt licentious of theſe unhappy women, there are many who poſſeſs ſuch a rooted affection for a particular object, that the idea of loſing his regard, diſtreſſes them beyond expreſſion, though they encounter all the inconveniencies of their wretched and fortuitous life with the moſt depraved inſenſibility: while there are others of the ſame claſs,

claſs, in whom pride, rivalry, and intereſt, produce apprehenſions of equal miſery. Hence it is, that a life of continual fear, and which poſſeſſes no reſource from the exerciſe of reaſon, begets the anxious ſuperſtition which makes hourly application to ſigns and tokens, to the oracles of cards and advertiſing fortune-tellers, and, ſometimes, to ſuch ſtrange ceremonies as I have juſt deſcribed, in order to ſooth the harraſſed and debilitated mind with the ſhadows of conſolation. Not that this ſpecies of folly is wholly confined to this claſs of people:—there are thoſe, in the more honourable ranks of life, who are, at times, affected with ſimilar weakneſs: ſome amuſing examples of which I ſhall diſcover to you, before we have finiſhed our career through this metropolis." "Nevertheleſs," ſaid Don Cleofas, ſmiling, "this nation is the moſt enlightened upon the face of the globe! It is in the power of your logic alone, my good friend, to reconcile ſuch a character with the account

you

you have juſt given me." "Your diſpoſition to make a ſarcaſtic obſervation," replied the Demon, "outruns your judgment; and to reſtore the latter, I muſt beg leave to inform you, that human infirmity is as univerſal as the human race, and that even the wiſdom of man is only a leſſer degree of weakneſs. But it may be proper for me to obſerve, in my turn, by way of illuſtration, that while, in your country, the moſt miſerable ſuperſtition is ſeen triumphant, at all times, and in all places; while it lives in your churches, frequents your palaces, viſits the chambers of your coquettes, mingles with the ſtudies of your philoſophers, and with the wiſdom of your wiſe men; while it is found in your ſtreets and highways,—while your nation gives to it the character and ſacred ſanction of religion,—theſe forms of it which I have mentioned, are here applied to only by the weak, the ignorant, and the wretched, and theſe applications are made in ſecrecy and ſilence; nor would the verieſt wretch who makes her

her doubtful appeal to them, acknowledge, without a bluſh, that ſhe had any confidence in them.

"But let me now," continued Aſmodeus, "requeſt you to look into the firſt-floor of the houſe adjoining." "I ſee," ſaid Don Cleofas, "a young woman of an engaging appearance, who is opening a baſket with the moſt eager impatience. Her mourning dreſs becomes her, and is put on, I preſume, to decorate a temporary widowhood, which the fated paſſion of ſome fickle gallant may have occaſioned." "You never were more miſtaken in your life, than in this conjecture," anſwered the Demon, "her lover is conſtancy itſelf, and continually riſks the being turned out of his father's doors, to ſay no worſe, in order to court her favour.

"He is the ſon of a capital inn-keeper in the city, whoſe houſe is a very eminent receptacle for public vehicles, of every kind,

kind, from various parts of the kingdom; and from theſe the young man is continually purloining ſome delicacy or other for her table; not a week paſſes but ſome honeſt citizen is diſappointed at the failure of an expected preſent from the country; while ſervants are as often diſcharged for neglect or roguery by the aſtoniſhed innkeeper, who ſuſpects everybody about him of theſe petty thefts but the real thief. The baſket which you have ſeen opened, contains a fine piece of veniſon, for which the ſtomach of a voracious Alderman is craving in vain. As for the lady's dreſs, it derives its colour from a cauſe which would baffle even your happy ſpirit of conjecture. You muſt know then, that their Majeſties have lately loſt a German couſin, and the Lord Chamberlain's orders for mourning at the Court of St. James's, are moſt regularly obeyed in the courts of Drury-lane."

"Well," ſaid Don Cleofas, "this ſelf-ſame love is a moſt wonder-working genius;

nius; and, if I am not greatly miſtaken, he is playing another of his games in that room with yellow furniture, where a young lady, leaning on a table, alternately contemplates and kiſſes the picture of her lover; and as ſhe appears to be diſſolved in ſorrow, I am afraid that the object of her affection is either abſent or faithleſs."—"Your conjectures of late," anſwered Aſmodeus, "have not been fortunate, and this is in the ſame predicament. Though the unhappy perſon who is the object of your preſent attention, inhabits a quarter of the town peculiarly conſecrated to the votaries of the licentious paſſions, and has herſelf been the wretched victim of them, there is more real goodneſs in her heart, and a more enlarged capacity for virtue in her character, than is to be found in many of thoſe who poſſeſs the bleſſing of reputation, becauſe they have never experienced the application of thoſe deluſive arts, which render an effectual reſiſtance againſt temptation,

tation, the moſt arduous effort of female reſolution.

"The picture ſhe holds in her hand, at the ſight of which ſhe weeps with ſuch deep ſorrow, and preſſes with ſuch lively emotion to her lips, is the portrait of her father, and was his laſt gift. —He was a clergyman, of rare learning, and uncommon excellence; but his preferment in the church was too moderate, his benevolence too extenſive, and his life too ſhort, to allow him to make an independent proviſion for his daughter. He had, by the intereſt of an eminent *London* merchant, who had purchaſed an eſtate in his pariſh, obtained an employment for his ſon in the *Eaſt Indies*, and his daily prayer to Heaven was, that he might live to ſee his daughter ſettled in ſome way or other that might promiſe a life of virtue. But this petition of his heart was not granted; and he was taken away when a friendleſs ſtate is moſt dangerous to female youth. Per-

Perceiving that his laſt moments drew nigh, he called his daughter to his bedſide, and giving her the picture which is now the object of her mournful contemplation,—'Take,' ſaid he, 'this reſemblance of your dying father; it hung from the neck of your mother till ſhe was taken from me; and if, when you regard it, it ſhould recall to your mind the counſels of this affecting hour, it may prove, with the aſſiſtance of Heaven, a kind of taliſman, to preſerve you from the paths of error, and keep you firm in the ways of virtue.' Without entering into a further detail, the inſtructions which he had continually given her through life, were ſuch as immediately preceded his death. The worthy man died in the comfortable hope that they would avail to preſerve his child; and weeping over his bier, ſhe made a ſolemn vow, in ſpite of all diſtreſs and every temptation, to obey them.—But what are the vows of youth, ſenſibility, and inexperience, in ſuch a world as this!—they

enabled

enabled her, indeed, to make ſeduction a long and a difficult taſk, but they could not finally preſerve her from it.

"She had, however, remained upwards of a year in the family of an opulent farmer, the friend and pariſhioner of her father, who had kindly promiſed that he would take care of her, and her little fortune, till ſome fair opportunity offered of ſettling her in the world, when the ſon of the *London* merchant who had provided for her brother in the *Eaſt Indies*, came down into the country, to take poſſeſſion of the eſtate which, I have already obſerved, his father, who was lately dead, had purchaſed in the place where ſhe lived. He ſaw the young lady, was ſmitten with her beauty, and determined to employ every means that his paſſion could ſuggeſt, to ſeduce her. For this purpoſe a thouſand arts were employed, and baffled; as many offers were made, and rejected: at length, after a long and fruitleſs purſuit, he

he propoſed a ſecret marriage, to which ſhe was perſuaded to conſent. Indeed, the marriage was ſo ſecret, that no perſon legally qualified to perform the ceremony was preſent at it; for, among thoſe who aſſiſted at this fraudulent union, ſhe alone was pure in heart who was to be the victim of it.

"When this ſtratagem had ſucceeded, ſhe was eaſily deceived into his views of living in retirement; in which ſituation ſhe remained in a mingled ſtate of anxiety and contentment, till his public marriage with another, opened her eyes upon the melancholy ſtate of diſgrace in which his arts and her own credulity had involved her. The embaſſadreſs who had been appointed by her betrayer to announce this dreadful information, and who had been previouſly introduced to her acquaintance, for that and other wretched purpoſes, was a woman who, having been long engaged in the trade of adminiſtering to licentious plea-

pleaſures, poſſeſſed all thoſe arts which are ſo often, and with ſo much ſucceſs, employed to ſeduce female virtue. Theſe arts ſhe did not fail to exert, when the unfortunate young woman ſunk into that ſtate of affliction, which might be ſuppoſed to poſſeſs her tender and honeſt heart, from the barbarous treatment of the man ſhe loved, the mortification her pride muſt feel from ſuch a cruel deception, and the ſenſibility of a virtuous mind for the loſs of virtue. To heighten the miſery of her ſituation, ſhe was abandoned by her ſeducer, not only to diſhonour, but to want; and in this ſtate of diſtreſs, there was no one but this infamous woman to whom ſhe could apply for counſel or aſſiſtance. To her, therefore, ſhe made application, and in her houſe ſhe was invited to find the aſylum of friendſhip; when, after a certain period ſet apart for the forms and artifice of conſolation, the unfortunate victim diſcovered that ſhe was gradually preparing for a life of proſtitution. Without a ſingle ray of hope

hope to gleam on her future proſpect,—not knowing what to do, or where to go, with tears ſtreaming from her eyes, and deſpair agitating her heart, ſhe told her miſerable hiſtory to a gentleman; who, though he was not introduced to her to hear a melancholy tale, was ſo affected by that which ſhe related, that he perſuaded her, as a far leſſer evil of the two, to quit the place where ſhe then was, and to accept a conditional protection from him, which he has ſince afforded her; and ſhe now reſides where you ſee her, ſupported by him with ſome degree of tenderneſs and generoſity. But ſtill ſhe is wretched beyond expreſſion, and has frequently approached the reſolution of applying to ſelf-deſtruction as the cure of her woes; and were it not for the portrait of her father, which, as ſhe devoutly contemplates it, ſeems to inſpire her with patience to bear her miſery a little longer, ſhe would have already been the victim of her own deſpair.

" But

"But I will comfort you, my friend," continued Aſmodeus, "with the aſſurance that her preſent ſufferings are drawing nigh to a period. Her brother, whom the accumulated arts of her betrayer had repreſented as being dead, will ſhortly arrive in *England* from the *Eaſt-Indies*, with the acquiſition of great wealth, and without the loſs of his early virtues. His fraternal kindneſs will ſnatch her from her preſent miſerable ſituation, and gild the retirement to which ſhe will devote her future life, with all the happineſs her wounded ſpirit will be able to enjoy.

"But is there no puniſhment," exclaimed Don Cleofas; "in this enlightened country, for ſuch baſe betrayers of innocence?" "There is none," anſwered the Demon, "adequate to the offence; and the brother of this injured young lady, however ardent he may be for revenge, will leave it to the hand of Heaven, rather than, by an actual and avowed exerciſe of it, expoſe his ſiſter's diſgrace

disgrace to the curious notice, and unfeeling eye of the public.—For though you may think, and with great justice, that such an history should be made known, to cover the author of it with the most indelible shame, it is an act of real prudence,—in regard to the unfortunate lady,—to let the guilty transaction remain in its present state of secrecy; that her retreat may not be intruded upon by the inconsiderate and busy calumny of a prying and unpitying world. But as I perceive your great uneasiness that such a villain should escape punishment, be assured, my friend, that the scourge of more than human punishment will overtake him: and I faithfully promise you, that within a few days, the spirit of justice which now so nobly actuates your mind, with respect to this man, shall be fully satisfied.

"But to change the subject a little:—What think you of the scene which is acting in the upper story of the corner house,

to the left of us." "There is embracing with a vengeance," anſwered Don Cleofas; "the lady is in actual raptures; and as the gentleman appears to be in the dreſs of a traveller, I preſume that he is returned from the country, after a long and tedious abſence." "He is, indeed, returned from the country," ſaid the Demon; "his abſence, however, has only been for a few hours; and his journey, but a few miles round the metropolis. Nevertheleſs, in the courſe of it, he has contrived to eaſe the paſſengers in four ſtage-coaches, and as many poſt-chaiſes, beſides a few ſolitary horſemen, of their watches and money. He is no leſs than a very notorious highwayman; and the faithful nymph's raptures proceed from having a principal part of the ſpoil thrown into her lap. As for the man himſelf, ſhe has ſuch a fond and rooted affection for him, that, after having paſſed the night in his arms, ſhe will haſten to give the police ſuch information concerning him, that he will be very ſhortly taken, condemned and

and hanged: and ſo diſtant is her tender nature from feeling any remorſe or compunctions on the occaſion, that ſhe will read the account of his laſt dying ſpeech and confeſſion, with the ſame *ſang froid* with which ſhe has peruſed thoſe of ſeveral others of her gallants, whom ſhe has, in the ſame manner, careſſed and betrayed.

"That gay Miſs, in the adjoining houſe, is one of the miſtreſſes of an old Dutch Merchant, famous in his day, for his expenſive gallantries; and who will preſerve ſome remains of his former character to the end of the chapter.— "Does the old gentleman then," ſaid Don Cleofas, "lean a little to the doctrine of Mahomet, and keep a ſeraglio?"—"He confines himſelf," anſwered Aſmodeus, "to three ſultanas, beſides his wife. Two of them are ſupported in different degrees of elegance, in oppoſite parts of the town; and the third at a ſmall villa, a few miles in the country. The day of love is paſt with him, and he

now amuſes himſelf with the whimſical idea of making each of his ladies believe that ſhe poſſeſſes an unrivalled power in his heart; and when he viſits them all, which he frequently does, in the courſe of the ſame day, he hugs himſelf in the dearly purchaſed and idle belief, that they are individually ignorant of his other connexions; and, therefore, extremely careful to preſerve the happineſs of his protection. This flattering deception ſatisfies the old dupe, while each of his damſels maintain a favourite gallant at his expence. His wife, who flatters him alſo with appearing to be ignorant of his manœuvres, contrives to ſolace herſelf, in his abſence, with the tender viſits of a young Weſt-India merchant."

"But what a ſcene of confuſion do I ſee in the houſe adjoining," ſaid Don Cleofas. "It is a pleaſant comedy enough," anſwered the Demon; "a ſober, exemplary young man, paying an evening viſit to a

little ſecret miſtreſs, has diſcovered his old, lecturing, hypocritic father, whom the laſt faint flame of a libidinous paſſion had led to the ſame place, gaſping for breath in the unavailing retreat of a cloaths-preſs.—This very unexpected rencontre, occaſions, as you may perceive, no ſmall confuſion among the parties But, after a little altercation, the father and ſon will ſhake hands, agree to keep the buſineſs a profound ſecret, and return home together the beſt friends in the world.

"And now, if you pleaſe, my dear ſir," continued Aſmodeus, "we will do the ſame; but with ſomewhat more expedition."—Don Cleofas had ſcarce expreſſed his conſent, when he found himſelf ſafely landed at the door of his hotel.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

The DEVIL *upon* TWO STICKS *conducts* DON CLEOFAS *into the City: An Account of what he ſhews him there.*

A VERY particular commiſſion had ſo engaged the Devil upon Two Sticks, that it was noon before he could return to the ſervice of his friend.—"You are arrived moſt opportunely," ſaid Don Cleofas, on ſeeing him enter his chamber, "to diſſipate the alarms I was beginning moſt ſeriouſly to entertain both for you and myſelf." "I am in no danger here," anſwered Aſmodeus, "but from the malice of my own brethren, in caſe I ſhould interfere with their particular departments—envy and jealouſy being the leading paſſions of our fraternity; but while we remain together,

together, you may reſt aſſured of my prudence and precaution. You muſt know, however, my good friend, that the particular buſineſs of my miniſtry is not carried on in England with ſuch expedition as in your country, or indeed, in any other part of Europe. In France, the women ſcarce embarraſs themſelves at all about reſigning their conjugal fidelity:—It is not the how and the when, but the whom, which gives them a moment's uneaſineſs—ſo that I have nothing to do, but to bring an agreeable object before them, and the buſineſs is completed. You know the facility of theſe arrangements in Spain as well as myſelf; but in this cold climate of reaſon and good ſenſe, the taſk of undermining the fabric of female virtue is oftentimes extremely difficult.—Ever ſince I parted from you, I have been renewing my endeavours to deſtroy one of theſe little fortifications; in which attempt I have been hitherto ſo unſucceſsful, and ſee ſo little probability of attaining my ends, that if I had

not received directions from ſuperior power to continue my operations, I ſhould without heſitation raiſe the ſiege.

"The lady's name is *Amanda*; her huſband, whom ſhe was perſuaded by her parents to marry when ſhe was very young, and whom ſhe never loved with tenderneſs, treats her with neglect. She ſees and feels it, but acts as if ſhe was, what I muſt acknowledge ſhe well deſerves to be, the object of his moſt faithful affection.—This, however, is not all:—There is a moſt amiable and accompliſhed gentleman, an intimate friend of the family, whoſe name is *Sempronius*, for whom ſhe has long entertained a much greater regard than ſhe herſelf ſuſpects. She little thinks what the real ſtate of her mind is, when ſhe frequently ſays, in the ſecret moments of her diſtreſs, 'Alas! if I had been married to ſuch a man as Sempronius, how happy ſhould I have been.' He is alſo deeply enamoured of her, but ſuch is his opinion of her virtue,

tue, that though the impulſive moment of ardent paſſion does ariſe, he dare not expoſe it, even to the moſt diſtant ſuſpicion, leſt it ſhould baniſh him for ever from the friendſhip of an heart that he highly values, and which he believes to be impregnable to the more tender ſolicitations. This was a ſcene, as you will readily perceive, in which I was formed to take a very active part:—Both parties appeared to want a little of my aſſiſtance, and I was prepared to give it, to the full extent of my power."

" At this time Amanda's huſband is gone into the country, and has taken a little vulgar drab of a miſtreſs along with him. Of this mortifying circumſtance I took care, by the aid of a good-natured female friend, that ſhe ſhould be fully informed. And yeſterday evening, when Sempronius drank tea with her, I had contrived that he ſhould appear more amiable in her ſight than he had ever done before. In ſhort, I now began to entertain the hope that ano-

ther meeting of this kind would complete the buſineſs.—However, that no aid might be wanting on my part, I paſſed the night by her bed-ſide; and while I alternately raiſed her paſſions, and alarmed her pride, I preſented the form of Sempronius continually to her fancy. In an amorous dream, which I alſo inſpired, ſhe ſaw him at her feet, and acknowledged the force of her paſſion for him. In the morning ſhe aroſe, agitated and unhappy, and the firſt object which ſhe ſaw on her dreſſing-table, was a billet from Sempronius, dictated by me, which propoſed, in terms of more than common animation, to repeat the *téte à tête* of the preceding evening. She opened it with ſome emotion,—read it twice, threw it, after a moment's heſitation, into the fire, and formed an immediate reſolution to receive no viſitor whatever but her near relations, during her huſband's abſence. She then rang the bell with ſome violence, and gave the moſt poſitive orders for that purpoſe. Though I was ſurpriſed,

I did

I did not deſpair, till I ſaw the ſunſhine of virtue beam on her countenance, and heard her order her breakfaſt to be taken up into the nurſery, that ſhe might partake it with her children.

"At this moment I flew to you, to renew our daily perigrination." "Well," ſaid Don Cleofas, "many and great as my obligations are to my friend, I cannot but expreſs a moſt ſincere ſatisfaction that this amiable woman has eſcaped him."—"But, if you had been Sempronius," ſaid the Demon, "what would then be your opinion?"—"Why, then," anſwered Don Cleofas, "I ſhould be deeply in love, and fit for a Devil to work upon. Nevertheleſs, with all my ſenſibility to the ſarcaſm of your queſtion, I would willingly make a long pilgrimage to ſee the woman who has ſo completely got the better of you." "Within theſe few days," replied Aſmodeus, "you ſhall enjoy that pleaſure without the trouble of a very long journey:—

At preſent, we will, if you pleaſe, proceed on our morning's tour, and ſee what amuſement the buſy ſcene of mercantile life will afford you.

"That ſuperb building," ſaid Aſmodeus, as they paſſed along the Strand, "contains a neſt of public offices. But it will intereſt us only as a part of it is devoted to the Royal Academy of painting and ſculpture. At preſent, however, I ſhall paſs it by, with a promiſe to introduce you to the firſt public meeting of the artiſts who compoſe it. That aſſembly will be found to contain ſome intereſting and ſingular characters among the painters of this country; which I ſhall not fail to expoſe in colours equal to their own.

"That gate before us," continued he, as they proceeded on their walk, "is called Temple Bar. It forms the limits between the cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*; and when the King goes at any time, in ſtate, into

into the city, this gate is ſhut, till the officers who precede his Majeſty have made a formal demand of admiſſion. This miſerable remnant of uſeleſs pride, affords the only reaſon that can be aſſigned for the folly of the corporation of *London*, in ſuffering it to remain a daily, and even a dangerous obſtruction to the principal entrance into their city. It has alſo ſerved to expoſe the heads of traitors, which were fixed on poles erected on the top of it. But there is no reaſon whatever to ſuppoſe that it will again be adorned with ſimilar trophies of national juſtice. The people of this country are now too united and too happy to rebel.—They enjoy the liberty of ſpeaking their ſentiments on all political ſubjects; and individuals may grumble and complain without reſerve, if they feel any public meaſures unpleaſant to themſelves: but ſuch diſpleaſure, though ſometimes loud, is always partial, and ſoon evaporates. There are ambitious men in this country, as there have

have been in every other; who, with great talents, poſſeſs an ardent love of power: theſe men have their adherents, who, without principle and without fortune, attach themſelves to their leaders, in the hope of aiding their elevation to power, and ſharing in the emoluments of it. Such men may form a party who will thwart the wiſeſt meaſures of government, and oppoſe even the beſt intereſts of their country, to drive, if poſſible, a miniſtry from their poſts, in order that they may be called to fill them. But influenced as they may be, by ſuch an audacious paſſion as ambition, or goaded by ſuch an impelling principle as neceſſity, they well know that it would prove the deſtruction of all their proſpects, if they were to venture beyond the limits of that good order which is a conſtituent part of true liberty.

"But to put an end to our political moralizing—let me entreat you to obſerve, how well furniſhed all theſe ſhops appear to

to be with goods of every ſort, and purchaſers of every kind. What animation in the looks, and activity in the motions of thoſe who are employed in the ſervice of them. It may ſurprize you, perhaps, but ſmall as theſe houſes may appear to you, the annual rent of many of them would give pomp, as well as plenty, to a proud Hidalgo of your country. You are now in the tumult of trade,—the throng which you can hardly penetrate, and the number of carriages which perplex our progreſs, are all, more or leſs, concerned in it."—"Indeed," ſaid Don Cleofas, "if it were not for your aſſiſtance, I ſhould be trodden under the feet of the one, and deafened by the clatter of the other."

"If this buſtling kind of walking," ſaid the Demon, "is diſagreeable to you, I have intereſt enough, I believe, to procure a coach for you in a moment." "I humbly thank you", anſwered Don Cleofas, "but the accident which that elegant equipage

equipage has this moment encountered, has rather put me out of conceit with the mode of conveyance you are ſo kind as to propoſe. Did you not ſee how that loaded cart tore the painted wheel from its axle-tree, and threatened the gilded carriage itſelf with deſtruction, not to mention the poor, affrighted gentleman within it?

" He is a very eminent merchant," ſaid the Devil upon Two Sticks, " who is going from his fine houſe at the faſhionable end of the town, to his accompting-houſe in the city, and is now threatening the carman moſt vehemently with a proſecution for an accident, which aroſe from the impertinence of his own coachman; not chuſing juſt now to remember, that to carts, and machines of ſimilar conveyance, he is, in ſome degree, indebted for the very coach whoſe fracas ſo violently enrages him. It is not, however, the expence of ſuch an accident that affects him:— His petulance proceeds from the mortification

tion of being obliged to walk through thoſe very ſtreets where he himſelf and his forefathers have carried parcels under their arms, and ſome of them, perhaps, burdens on their backs. As a merchant, he is a perſon of moſt eſtabliſhed credit,—as a man, he is proud, ſupercilious, and unfeeling. His father was a ſoap-boiler, of good character; but it is from his uncle, who bred him up, and to whoſe fortune, as well as buſineſs, he ſucceeded, that he derived his wealth; and by ſome connections he made in marriage, his perſonal importance has been very unexpectedly augmented. He is now, indeed, a very great man,—talks of his landed property,—boaſts of veniſon from his park,—game from his manors, and pines from his hot-houſe, and tells his city friends how glad he ſhall be to ſee them, when they come into the neighbourhood of St. James's.—Aſks ſome of them to dine with him the following week, and gives them the choice of any day except four, when he is particularly engaged

engaged with a noble Lord of his acquaintance, three Members of Parliament, and two or three other perſons of great conſequence in Adminiſtration, who have invited themſelves to take a family dinner with him. But with all his wealth and conſequence, he cannot alter the nature of things; and many good-humoured people will not ceaſe to remember the dunghill that produced the gilded bug. His brother, alas! inherited the trade of their common father,—and is ſtill a ſoap-boiler."

"But what ſtupendous and magnificent ſtructure is this, which we are now approaching," exclaimed Don Cleofas,—"It is the Cathedral of St. Paul, and the metropolitan church of *Great Britain*: except that of St. Peter's, at *Rome*, it is the fineſt church in the world. But as you will be able to examine its beauty and magnificence at another opportunity, and without my aſſiſtance, we will not interrupt the progreſs of the day, by ſtopping to con-

conſider it. Beſides, to tell you the truth, it is not in my department. The Demon of hypocriſy has the ſuperintendance of all places of public worſhip, where he is fully employed: and if I am permitted to perch in any of them for a few minutes, it is ſolely by his permiſſion, to direct the looks and ogles of young people, and to open the prayer-books of the unmarried women in that page which contains the marriage ceremony; ſo that, inſtead of liſtening to the voice of the preacher, 'preach he never ſo wiſely,' they may make little intereſting ſermons for themſelves, from the well-known text of 'encreaſe and multiply.'

"Obſerve, I beg of you," continued Aſmodeus, "that ſpruce, well-dreſſed, highly powdered gentleman, in a green frock, who is croſſing the way towards us. What a ſelf-complacent ſmile ſits upon his countenance, and with what caution he treads, leſt he ſhould ſoil the japan of his ſhoes, or ſpeck the ſnowy whiteneſs of his ſilk-

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ſtockings. He is the natural ſon of an eminent *Ruſſia* merchant, and by profeſſion an inſurance-broker and underwriter of ſhipping; who, without five grains of real underſtanding, has won his way to wealth and profeſſional conſequence, by the practice of that univerſal good-humour and ſubmiſſive diſpoſition, that ſerves to flatter the vanity or ſupply the leſſer wants of ſuperior ſituation. His natural and acquired connections raiſed him, by degrees, to a conſiderable portion of buſineſs; and having elevated himſelf, by an aſſiduous civility, from little better than the contempt, to the regard of a lady, the widow of an honeſt, but unſucceſsful merchant, he ſucceeded her former huſband, who had been his intimate friend, in the matrimonial poſſeſſion of her. Her connections being very conſiderable, he immediately roſe into mercantile importance, grew into wealth, got government contracts, engages for loans, has built an elegant villa on the banks of the Thames, and as he views the

the paſſing veſſels, vaunts, with conſcious pride, that at leaſt a fifth part of all that ſail beneath his view are inſured by him. He conſiders himſelf in the firſt line of faſhionable citizens, gives his name to every liſt of public benefactions, and apes all the luxurious faſhions of elegant life. Having loſt his wife, he ſoon got poſſeſſion of another capital widow, and has taken a very handſome houſe in a principal ſtreet at the weſt end of the town. But wealth and good fortune beget an encreaſe of ambition in weak minds, and he now thinks that he ought to be a Member of Parliament: but that advancement the mortifying circumſtances of his birth forbid." "He may conſole himſelf, at leaſt," ſaid Don Cleofas, "that he will leave a princely fortune behind him." "That is," obſerved the Demon, "by no means a certain dependence; for it frequently happens, in this city, that theſe money ſpeculators who have begun the world with nothing, and, from fortuitous circumſtances,

ſtances, have paſſed a number of intermediate years in all the luxury of wealth, quit life in much the ſame ſituation in which they began it.

"That huge, heavy edifice," ſaid Aſmodeus, as they paſſed along, "is the Manſion-houſe of the chief magiſtrate of London. It is as inconvenient and taſteleſs within, as it is diſguſting without. When a building of this nature was firſt propoſed to be erected, many plans were preſented by artiſts of great merit and character, but the wiſe corporation of this city, with a moſt judicious and liberal ſpirit of preference, determined, without heſitation, in favour of a deſign which was not only very much inferior to the reſt, but, as you ſee, a diſgrace to architecture itſelf, merely becauſe it was produced by the wonderful genius *of one of their own body*."

"And what place, I pray you, is this which we are now entering," ſaid Don Cleofas,

Cleofas, "where there appears to be as crouded an aſſembly of people as is uſually ſeen at our bull-feaſts, in the great ſquare, at *Madrid*." "This is the Royal Exchange," replied the Demon, "which may be called the throne of Britiſh commerce. Here the merchants aſſemble at a certain hour every day to arrange their reſpective buſineſs with each other, and to regulate, as it were, the trade of the world. The ſtatues of the Britiſh Kings, which adorn this place, ſeem to look down with an air of complacence upon the grand ſupport of the proſperity and power of the Britiſh crown.

"The ſtatue in a niche beneath the colonade, is of another kind:—It was erected by the merchants of *London*, in honour of one of themſelves; who, as a citizen, a magiſtrate and a repreſentative in Parliament, had with great zeal, ability and ſucceſs, defended the rights of trade, extended the limits of commerce, and ſupported the pri-

privileges of his fellow citizens. This upright and venerable man, lived many years after this highly-merited token of public regard was placed where you now ſee it; and remains a ſingular example of a ſtatue or inſcription being raiſed to a living character, which (ſuch is the uncertain tenure of popular favour) the very perſons who commanded its erection, did not wiſh to pull down or efface before the death of him, the virtues of whoſe life it was intended to perpetuate.

"But we ſhall be enabled to take a better view of this commercial croud," ſaid Aſmodeus, "and make our obſervations upon ſome of the individuals that compoſe it, with more eaſe, if we perch on one of the balconies above us." In a moment Don Cleofas found himſelf looking down upon the mercantile aſſembly; and the Demon immediately directed his attention to a little man, in a gray coat, who was engaged in deep

deep converſation with an Armenian Merchant.

"That perſon," ſaid he, "is a Jew, who poſſeſſes one of the firſt places in the ſynagogue of this nation, and is a character of credit and confidence in the place where he now ſtands; both of which he deſerves as little as the loweſt pilferer of his tribe.—But he well knows the neceſſity of keeping a ſecret,—the divulging of which would undo him; and he will contrive to carry the credit that is built upon it to his grave. You muſt know then, that, ſome years ago, he became a bankrupt, a misfortune which the moſt active, ſkilful, or conſcientious trader, cannot always avoid; and he contrived to make his creditors and the world believe, that though his commerce had been unſucceſsful, his conduct had been without reproach. He was, however, playing a deep, and a dangerous, though it proved a fortunate game; for, according to the laws of this country, the bankrupt who conceals

any part of his effects from his creditors, is liable to the severest penalties of them; and this very concealment he ventured to practise. When he appeared before the commissioners, to confirm the truth of the schedule he had delivered of his property by an oath, he took the watch from his pocket, and gave the cane from his hand, and swore that he had given up his all; and he swore most truly: but as it is usual to return to persons in his situation, their little personal trinkets, whatever they may be, the watch and cane were returned to him by the unsuspecting creditors, who could not possibly divine, that the hollow part of the latter contained bank-notes to the amount of several thousand pounds.—Thus he fulfilled the exterior obligations which the law required—was the pity of those very people whom he defrauded—got legally rid of all his debts, and remained in possession of a very considerable capital, which he drew forth in such a manner, as to evade all possibility of suspicion. The fruit

fruit of this fine ſtroke of knavery, is a ſtate of proſperity, which integrity is not often known to attain.

"The little man, with a long noſe and a large roſe to his hair, juſt beyond him, is one of the ſame nation; who affects great liberality of ſentiment, diſdains all partial preference, and declares himſelf the votary of univerſal benevolence. As a proof of this diſpoſition of mind, he has lately preſented a ſuperb ſet of *New Teſtaments* to the chapel of a public hoſpital: but the donor's name, in large golden characters, on their ſplendid covers, proclaims the ſilly vanity that governed this eccentric act of generoſity, and directs every action of his life. The perſon to whom the Jew appears to be making ſuch repeated acknowledgements, is flattering him upon the ſubject of his Chriſtian donation, with a view to an invitation to dinner, in which he has this moment ſucceeded; ſo that the vanity of

the one, and the appetite of the other, will be equally gratified.

"That pleaſant looking man, whom you ſee, in the ſame quarter, dreſſed in blue, who is ſhaking hands with every one around him, is another of the tribe of Judah; but a perſon of general eſtimation, as well as of great wealth.—He has lately ſubſcribed, in a very generous manner, to the rebuilding the pariſh church of the village where he has a country-houſe. But this donation was not the offspring of pride or vanity, or any intereſted paſſion, but proceeded from the ſublime ſentiment that God is the Father of all, and that the ſincere worſhip of every religion, promotes his glory, and tends to complete the wiſe deſign of his providence in creating the world.

"The perſon immediately beneath us, in a round hat and boots, and with a whip in his hand, is a merchant, who, by ſome bold and keen ſtrokes in trade, has riſen ſuddenly

ſuddenly i to wealth. He is juſt going out of town, to an eſtate he has purchaſed at a few miles diſtance, where he is now building a very handſome villa. The firſt ſtone of this edifice was laid about three months ago; but, ſuch is the uncertain ſtate of human affairs, that before it can be glazed, the maſter of it will be in his coffin.

" The man with whom he is engaged in converſation, is an architect; who, with ſome little genius, a great ſhare of prudence, and the moſt perſevering induſtry, has raiſed a very large fortune. He was bred a ſculptor, and in that difficult profeſſion, would never have riſen above mediocrity; but when he was already advanced in life, it appeared to him that there was a moſt favourable opening for an enterpriſing architect in this country:—He, therefore, commenced that profeſſion; and though he, at firſt, built ſome houſes without ſtaircaſes, and was guilty of ſimilar blunders in

the erection of others, yet, by unremitting induſtry, and adopting a novelty of ſtructure, he advanced himſelf into very great employment; and, by the force of his perſevering genius, he will leave behind him ſome monuments of his architectural ſkill, that will preſerve his profeſſional name both from contempt and oblivion.

" The little man who is puſhing through the crowd, and has a nod, a ſmile, or a compliment for every one he paſſes, is an adventurous ſtock-broker. His head is full of nothing but fine houſes, elegant equipages, and all the trappings of luxurious life :—For if the public funds remain at their preſent price till next Monday, and there is no apparent reaſon why they ſhould fall, he will be ſixty thouſand pounds richer than he is at this moment: but, alas ! he is on the verge of ruin.—A ſmall party of bank directors are, at this moment, forming a ſcheme for the advantage of certain individuals, which will give

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ſuch an unexpected turn to the buſineſs, as will darken all his golden proſpects; and, on caſting up his accounts on Monday evening, he will find himſelf a debtor for twenty thouſand pounds more than he has the means to pay. This ſort of men compoſe the gamblers of commerce, who riſe into ſudden riches without reſpect, or ſink into as ſudden ruin without commiſeration.

"The tall, elderly gentleman," continued Aſmodeus, "who ſtands at the left of the ſtatue in the centre of the Exchange, and is, at this moment, enlivening himſelf with a pinch of ſnuff, is of a very different claſs. He is that truly reſpectable character, of which it muſt be acknowledged there are many in this great city, that ennobles commerce. Such is the nature of his concerns, and ſuch his ſkill and integrity in conducting the courſe of them, that his own private advantage may be truly conſidered as a public benefit.—

By the commercial exertions of ſuch men, the public wealth is augmented, general induſtry is rewarded, and growing manufactures encouraged; and they become, as it were, the chief ſprings of that grand commercial machine which diſpenſes, through all the channels of individual induſtry and ingenuity, ſo much benefit to general ſociety, and tends ſo effectually to increaſe the national proſperity. The Britiſh merchant ſitting in his accompting-houſe, and arranging the concerns of his extenſive commerce, is an object, whether we conſider him in a political or philoſophical view, of the firſt reſpect and conſideration. At the moment he commands the produce of the diſtant world to flow into his warehouſes, he forwards the cultivation of his own country, ſets the wheel of the Britiſh manufacturer in motion, holds forth the reward of induſtry to the active, and animates, by his encouraging liberality, the exertions of genius; while every wind that blows, ſerves to quicken the progreſs of his numerous

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ſhips to ſome or other of their various deſtinations in the different quarters of the globe. How ſuperior is ſuch a man, in the eye of reaſon and of Heaven, to the Noble of a thouſand years, who has received his hereditary poſſeſſions without a ſingle effort of his own, and enjoys them, even in the moſt favourable deſcription, under the influence of hereditary pride, elegant paſſion, or refined luxury!

"But what is that little man," ſaid Don Cleofas, "with his wig ſo finely powdered, and is now buſtling through the crowd, with ſuch apparent impatience?" "He is a very buſy, talkative tradeſman," replied Aſmodeus, "who is haſtening to a Coffee-houſe, to get a glaſs of bitters, for the purpoſe of giving a very keen appetite, a more than common keenneſs, in order to do his duty at an elegant dinner, of which he is this day to partake. He is one of the common-council of this city, and has joined his brethren of the ſame ward with himſelf, in

paying their alderman, who is at this time Lord-Mayor, the compliment of inviting him to a public dinner given by themſelves. Theſe men are all tradeſmen, who complain moſt bitterly of the ſcarcity of money, the weight of taxes, the progreſs of luxury, and the dulneſs of trade; and have, therefore, conſulted a very wiſe œconomy in the propoſed dinner, by ordering it at ſo low a price as ten guineas a head."

"Pray explain to me," ſaid Don Cleofas, "the buſineſs of a man whom I have obſerved in different parts of the Exchange, ſpeaking to different people, and as continually noting ſomething in his pocket-book, which he carries open in his hand." "That is the printer of a newſpaper," anſwered Aſmodeus, "who oftentimes frequents this place to collect articles of intelligence. He is now minuting one of a very curious nature, of which he has not knowledge ſufficient to diſcover the object, and for which he bows as thankfully as if

he could prove it to be true. It was communicated to him by an arch, little dry-ſalter, and affirms, that the reaſon of the King of *Pruſſia* having ſent a large body of Wallachians into his duchy of *Lepſberg*, on the *Danube*, is on account of the Emperor having demanded of the King of *Poland*, part of the northern province of *Farthingmania*, with its harbour on the iſland of *Cyprus*, in the *Archipelago*. With this important intelligence he will haſten home, to give it immediately to the preſs; and if it were not for the perſon who corrects it for him, and who, on looking in the geographical dictionary for the right orthography of *Farthingmania*, will diſcover that there is no ſuch place, this curious paragraph would actually appear, to enlighten the politics of to-morrow.

"The tall, thin man," continued Aſmodeus, "immmediately beneath us, who is talking with ſo much earneſtneſs to the little congregation around him, was lately a

tradeſman of ſome eminence, whoſe houſe and warehouſes, with all their contents, were, about a week ago, conſumed by fire. He is relating the hiſtory of his misfortune with a degree of ſenſibility of which his audience has no idea.—The love of good-living, and a partiality to convivial enjoyments, having outrun his commercial profits, he found himſelf in ſuch a ſtate of embarraſſment, that, in order to avoid the diſgrace of bankruptcy, he determined to ſet his houſe on fire, and to avail himſelf of a policy of inſurance, to receive much more than he had loſt; by which means, with the aſſiſtance of his numerous friends, he hoped to begin the world again with every proſpect of ſucceſs, and the entire preſervation of his public character:—He, therefore, contrived to ſet a barrel of oil in flames, in one of his warehouſes, which, communicating very rapidly in the preciſe direction that he wiſhed, ſoon left him without houſe or merchandize.—But as even honeſt men often fail of ſucceſs, ſo the

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rogue is ſometimes the dupe of his own artifice. His ſon, though particularly directed by him to that effect, had neglected to renew the policy of inſurance, ſo that the loſs is all his own; and his only conſolation ariſes ſtom the reflection, that he cannot now be ſuſpected of the heinous crime which he had committed: but this, as you may ſuppoſe, is not very great; for however he may tell the ſtory of his misfortunes, he curſes, in his heart, the fatal neglect, by which he has loſt every thing in the world,—but his reputation!

"A little beyond this honeſt, but unſucceſsful tradeſman, you muſt diſcover a perſon rather of a mean appearance, who holds a large golden-headed cane immediately under his chin, and is converſing with a man dreſſed in ſhabby black, and who has the air and look of a clergyman.—He is a Scotchman, and a merchant of great conſideration; and is one of thoſe men, a character not uncommon among his coun-

trymen, who by an active and perſevering induſtry, have riſen from the loweſt ſituation of menial ſervice, to the higheſt rank of the mercantile profeſſion. As there are ſome ſingular features in his hiſtory, and will deſcribe, in ſome degree, a very prevailing characteriſtic of the Scotch nation, I ſhall amuſe you with an haſty ſketch of it.

" Born of the loweſt claſs in his own country, and ſeeing no proſpect there of raiſing himſelf into any thing better, he determined to follow the example of thouſands of his countrymen, in ſeeking a better fortune in the capital of *England*. For this purpoſe, he bid adieu to his native city, and ſet out on foot, with the hope of returning, if ever he ſhould return, by the aſſiſtance of other legs than his own.—He had not yet reached the confines of *England*, when, being benighted on his way, he made that application to the hoſpitality of a gentleman, to whoſe houſe he had accidentally

cidentally wandered, which hoſpitality never fails to grant.—Here he was received, and kindly entertained.—The ſituation of the place appeared a paradiſe to him; and learning that the maſter of it had been originally an adventurer of his own claſs, who became enabled, by his induſtry and good fortune, to return to the place of his nativity with the affluence which had purchaſed all the comforts he then enjoyed,—the idea inſpired our northern pilgrim with new vigour and expectation, gave freſh ſtrength to his limbs, and added many a mile to the journey of the day. The grand object which played on his fancy, ſolaced his wearineſs, and animated his hope, was, the charming retirement and comfortable enjoyments which he had juſt left behind him. Nor could there be a more cheering reflection to his boſom, that it was within the reach of poſſibility for him to be one day poſſeſſed of ſimilar bleſſings. 'No pain,' ſaid he, 'no labour, no inconvenience or 'danger ſhould I think too much, if, by

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'bearing the one, or encountering the 'other, I could, at any period of my life, 'ſecure to myſelf ſuch a ſituation of com- 'fort and independence, as that which I 'have lately ſeen ſo well enjoyed; and in 'which I would relieve and encourage the 'adventurous traveller, as I myſelf have 'been received and encouraged.' Such was his ejaculation on entering *London*, with his little bundle hanging upon a ſtick acroſs his ſhoulder, and one ſolitary half-crown in his pocket.

"A Scotchman,—and the proceeding is a wiſe one,—though he may ſometimes make a venture, ſeldom puts every thing to the riſque; and our traveller had not ſet out from home without procuring a letter of recommendation to a countryman in *London*. This ſenſible precaution ſoon procured him a ſituation in the ſervice of an eminent warehouſeman, where he did any thing, and every thing that was required of him. By attending carefully to the buſi-

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neſs of his maſter, he acquired a perfect knowledge of it; and by employing his leiſure hours in enquiring into the buſineſs of the neigbouring tradeſmen, he obtained a knowledge of theirs; and by never ſpending an idle farthing, he, of courſe, accumulated his wages. At length, ſuch was his induſtry, his integrity and his information, that, having riſen from one degree of confidence to another, he was recommended by his maſter as a fit perſon to be entruſted with the care of a conſiderable cargo, which was to be ſent as a venture to one of the Britiſh Colonies in *North America*. He made the firſt voyage with ſo much ſucceſs, that he was requeſted to conduct a ſecond.—He now not only conſidered the advantages of his principals, but paid ſome little attention to his own; and employed the money he had ſaved, which now amounted to a conſiderable ſum, in providing inveſtments for himſelf. The ſecond voyage was equally advantageous with the firſt; and a third was undertaken, which

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was more fortunate even than the former. But being at length poſſeſſed of a handſome capital of his own, he was determined, in future, to act entirely for himſelf: and having laden a veſſel with choice commodities of every kind, he arrived with his cargo at the deſtined port; where, from his frequent voyages, he was well known, and his upright conduct univerſally eſteemed. There he opened his warehouſes, and offered ſuch a variety of uſeful articles for ſale, as had never been ſeen in that country. He alſo entered upon a retail trade, which had never yet been practiſed there; a circumſtance which, as it was attended with the greateſt convenience to the inhabitants, proved proportionably beneficial to him. In ſhort, he was the firſt trader who cut a yard of cloth for ſale in that part of the world.—This ſpirited commercial novelty, was productive of ſuch univerſal benefit, as to attach the whole cuſtom of the colony to him; and he took care to preſerve it:—

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ſo that, in a few years, he left *America* not only with a conſiderable fortune, but the general regard and confidence of the people among whom he had lived, and returned to paſs the reſt of his days in his native country.

" At this period, the houſe and eſtate in Scotland, which has been deſcribed as ſtimulating his induſtry, and the idea whereof had never ceaſed to animate his endeavours, happened, from the death of its hoſpitable owner, to be upon ſale. On the information of this very ſingular circumſtance, our ſucceſsful trader did not heſitate a moment in ſetting off for the North, and ſoon became the maſter of a place, where, ſome years before, his benighted ſteps had conducted him to aſk a charitable reception. Here then we might ſuppoſe him to have attained the ſummit of human happineſs, being in poſſeſſion of that ſituation to which his wiſhes had ſo long aſpired,

red, and enjoying that opulence, which would enable him to poſſeſs it in comfort and independence. But, however the novelty of eaſe and retirement might amuſe him for a time, a life of comparative idleneſs did not accord with the habits of his mind.—Since his firſt accidental viſit to the place of his habitation, his ideas and notions had undergone a very conſiderable change; he had lived in a more genial and temperate climate;—the retirement of a village in Scotland, however beautiful, grew weariſome to him;—his children aſked for eſtabliſhments in life, and his friends in America, being in great want of a confidential agent in London, to conduct their commercial concerns in that city,—he ſold his northern paradiſe,—returned eagerly to the metropolis, is become a very eminent American merchant, and lives in luxury and ſplendour. His country-houſe was purchaſed of a nobleman, who had lately built it, and whoſe title it ſtill retains;—he has his park and his hot-houſes,—he

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ſees, in ſpring, the fruitage of ſummer on his walls, and is rolled in a coach and ſix from his accompting-houſe to his villa. While his ſon figures as a fine gentleman about town, and his daughters rival, in manners and accompliſhments, the beſt education of the great world.

" The ſtout young man who ſtands behind him, is one of his clerks, and is actually on the point of running away with one of the young ladies.—This connexion will, in a ſhort time, elevate him to a ſhare in the trade of his father-in-law, the whole of which he will, by degrees, contrive to ſecure to himſelf; and, without the leaſt compunction, will leave the old man, whoſe expenſive mode of life has prevented the profits of his commerce from accumulating, to retire to a corner of his fine ſeat in the country; there to manage, with a rigid and neceſſary œconomy, the leavings of his profuſion.

" The

" The old gentleman to whom the merchant is now directing his diſcourſe, is a Scotch Baronet, of a very antient family, and a moſt ſingular character. An hiſtory of his adventures, or rather of his life, will not be unentertaining to you; but as the relation would, at preſent, occupy that time which may be much better employed, I ſhall reſerve it for a more leiſure hour. We will, therefore, change our ſituation:"—and, in a moment, Don Cleofas found himſelf ſeated, with his companion, on the top of an houſe, which commanded an entire view of that eminent ſcene of action, —the Stock-Exchange.

" Gracious Heaven!" exclaimed the Spaniard, " what a confuſion of voices iſſues from the room beneath us!—and what a crowd of people is paſſing in and out of it." " Notwithſtanding that buſy multitude," replied the Demon, "appears to be acting the ſcene of Babel over again, every man has his brains involved in figures

figures and calculation; every atom of human thought in that room is impregnated with the eſſence of arithmetic.—It is a place in which the greateſt part of the fluctuating ſtocks of the public funds is bought and ſold.—It was built at the expence of a very ingenious body of men, called ſtock-brokers, for the purpoſe of carrying on their buſineſs without being liable to any interruption, but ſuch as proceeds from one another,—and is the ſcene of a more deep and artful ſpecies of gambling, than has ever been practiſed at any time or period, in any part of the world. I ſhall not enter into an hiſtory of this buſineſs, as you may find frequent and much better opportunities hereafter, of informing yourſelf concerning this important excreſcence of Britiſh wealth and credit.—Beſides, to tell you the truth, there is a particular ſpirit who preſides over this extraordinary commerce, and he might be offended, ſhould he even ſee me in my preſent poſition. I ſhall, therefore, content myſelf with

with pointing out to you a few of thoſe characters who offer themſelves to our immediate view, and are very induſtrious agents in this active and curious ſcene of public, deſperate, and, as it may be properly termed, legitimate gambling.

"The little man below us, in a brown coat, and with a wig of the ſame colour as his coat, who is placing his ſpectacles upon the very long noſe that nature has given him, to examine a paper he holds in his hand, has been a broker and ſtock-jobber for upwards of thirty years.—At length, finding himſelf poſſeſſed of upwards of forty thouſand pounds, he is determined to quit the buſineſs, and to retire into the country, to paſs the reſt of his days in peace and tranquillity. But ſo violent, and ſo continual have been the agitations of his mind, with the alternate hope of being rich, and the fear of being poor, that they have brought on a nervous diſorder, which will never quit him; and his hand now

ſhakes

ſhakes in ſuch a manner, that he is ſcarce able to lift a glaſs of Madeira, the liquor he loves beſt, to his lips.

The tall, thin, ſmart looking man, who paſſes ſo haſtily by him, has his agitations alſo;—his hand, indeed, is ſteady enough, but his fortune totters.—He is a merchant of very fair character, but not being contented with riſing to opulence by the ſlow, but certain courſe of regular commerce, has been induced to ſpeculate in the funds. In the commencement of the buſineſs, he proved extremely fortunate, but his ſucceeding ventures have been ſo very unſucceſsful, as to diſſipate his former gains, and to involve him in difficulties of a very alarming nature. He is now preparing to engage in a ſcheme of ſpeculation, by which he hopes to retrieve, at leaſt, if not meliorate, his former ſituation: but Fortune will fruſtrate his deſigns,—diſappoint his expectations,—and ſink him into irrecoverable ruin.—All his former comforts will

melt away,—his property be ſeized by his creditors; and his only hope will reſt at laſt, upon ſucceeding to an employment in the gift of the Corporation of *London*, which will be juſt ſufficient, ſhould he obtain it, to give him and his family the common neceſſaries of life.

"Thoſe two men who are whiſpering together," continued Aſmodeus, "are engaged in a buſineſs that requires the utmoſt ſecrecy, and is one of the many ſpecies of knavery that are practiſed in the place beneath us.—They have entered into a ſecret partnerſhip, the one to buy and the other to ſell very large quantities of ſtock, at a fixed price, on a certain future day; and they cannot fail of making a very large ſum of money, without any riſque whatever, but the loſs of reputation to one of them. For the ſucceſsful man, of courſe, ſtands his ground, and receives all the advantage of his bargains; while the other will ſtop payment, or rather he will pay nothing. They

They will then have a private meeting, andſh are the profits,

" The man with the cane under his arm, who is writing upon a large pocket-book, in the ſtreet, is a diſgraced broker, who has made his fortune by a little arrangement of a ſimilar nature. He had been commiſſioned by a trio of merchants, one of whom was a member of Parliament, to buy a very large quantity of ſtock, at a given price and time; when, however, the day of reckoning came, his employers, who were likely to loſe thirty or forty thouſand pounds by the buſineſs, perſuaded him to conceal their names, take the whole loſs upon himſelf, and pay nobody; for which undertaking, they made him a preſent of five thouſand pounds. This affair, indeed, diſcharged him from appearing again on the Stock Exchange;—but by the intervention of a pettifogger of the trade, he carries on his uſual concerns; and, as you may ſuppoſe, is employed, protected and enriched, by

thoſe excellent perſons whoſe reputation is in his power."

"There is nothing, as you very well know, my good friend," ſaid Don Cleofas, "of which I am ſo ignorant as, what is called, trade; nevertheleſs, from the common notions that one entertains of it, I do not, at all, comprehend a man's having the liberty of paying his debts or not, as he pleaſes, without being liable to the legal revenge of his creditors." "The ſpecies of commerce which we are now conſidering," anſwered the Demon, "as I have before obſerved, is nothing more or leſs, than a game of chance; and all gaming being againſt law, no man can be obliged by law, to fulfill his engagements in it.—The loſſes proceeding from cards and dice, are not recoverable by legal proceſs; and if a loſer at their reſpective games, chuſes to be conſidered as devoid of honour, and to abide by the diſagreeable circumſtances, to ſay no worſe, of being regarded with coolneſs

coolneſs by his acquaintance, he may keep the money he has loſt in his pocket. It is the ſame with ſtock-jobbing;—the whole of that buſineſs proceeds on a principle of honour; and if any one ſhould prefer the diſgrace of the Stock Exchange, to the ruin of his fortune, the alternative is at his own mercy.

"But now permit me," continued Aſmodeus, "to recommend to your attention a little figure of a man, who is buſtling through the crowd in a travelling dreſs, and looks as if he were in a fever, from the fatigue of riding poſt. He is juſt arrived expreſs from *Holland*, with an account of a very alarming diſturbance there, which, as it may operate in lowering the price of Stocks, for a few days, he has been diſpatched to give notice of it to particular perſons, that they may take advantage of the probable effect ſuch a piece of intelligence, when publicly known, may have on the market.— But it frequently happens

that falſe expreſſes are ſent, and particular news fabricated, by every ſpecies of artifice, both at home and abroad, for the various purpoſes of raiſing or ſinking the price of the funds, according as particular perſons are intereſted in having them lowered or advanced. Succeſs, in this kind of gambling, depends upon a knowledge of circumſtances, which it is very difficult for private individuals to attain; for this buſineſs of conjecture is of a very uncertain nature; and, as in other games of chance, hangs upon what is called good or ill-fortune. Miniſters, however, who muſt, of courſe, poſſeſs all the ſecrets of government, have been frequently accuſed of employing their knowledge to a very great advantage in this ſpecies of commerce. There is a man now living, whom I will, in a few days, diſcover to you, in the ſecret receſſes of his cabinet, who availed himſelf of a very ſhort-lived ſtate of power, to pay his debts, make conſiderable purchaſes, and enrich a few of his friends, by applying his

ſecret

ſecret knowledge of particular political ſituations, to the certain gain of the funds.—But while he went upon grounds that could ſcarce fail, numbers of general ſpeculators were undone; and if a certain body of men, who belong to that great edifice juſt beſide us, called the Bank of England, had not made a very irregular uſe of their power, ſo deep a game was played on the occaſion, as to have involved in ruin ſome of the moſt conſiderable merchants and bankers in the city of *London*.

"And now," ſaid the Demon, "we will remove to the ſecond act of the ſame farce:" and he had no ſooner ſpoke, than Don Cleofas found himſelf on the leads of an houſe that over-looked a principal part of 'Change-Alley. "In that coffee houſe immediately beneath us," ſaid Aſmodeus, many perſons whom you ſaw ſo lately and ſo deeply engaged in the buſy ſcene of ſtock-jobbing, retire to talk over their bargains, conſult with their principals, and

form new ſchemes and calculations for the morrow.

" That gentleman in the corner, who is taking his coffee with ſo much apparent complacency, is in a condition to ſwallow poiſon; and he is now heſitating on the alternative, whether the next liquor that touches his lips, ſhall be to ſuſtain or deſtroy life. He was a moſt reſpectable country gentleman, of large fortune, and the beſt character; as a provincial magiſtrate he was unrivalled, and repreſented his county in Parliament. Having placed a younger ſon in a banking-houſe, in the city, he was perſuaded, in order to ſtrengthen its credit, to become a partner; and it was already riſing into eminence, when, to ſhield his ſon from the conſequences of ſome imprudencies, that might have had a very bad effect on the united credit of their houſe, he entered into engagements that encreaſed his embarraſſments; and he then applied to the deſperate game of ſtock-jobbing

bing to retrieve his affairs, before the ſecret of his former tranſactions ſhould be revealed. To-morrow is the day of ſettlement, and he foreſees that nothing can ſave him from ruin and diſgrace. A faithful friend has already prepared a veſſel to take him to the continent; where he will paſs the reſt of his days, on a ſmall annuity allowed him by ſome of his intimate connections, and in the vain endeavour to forget his former proſperity.

"The tall man who ſits in the next box to him, and has juſt put ſome ſugar into the ink-ſtand inſtead of his chocolate, and from whoſe apparent embarraſſments, one would imagine to be ſuffering the ſevereſt frowns of fortune, is, at this moment one of her greateſt favourites. He has been ſo lucky as to gain a very large ſum of money; and, in the agitations of his mind, from reflecting on the riſque he has run, and the danger he has eſcaped, he wears all the appearance of a perſon who

has actually loſt it. He is one of thoſe prudent men, who have had their moments of imprudence, but ſees the folly of ſtaking his property and happineſs on ſuch an hazard, and will uſe his augmented fortune with that good ſenſe and moderation, which are the beſt proofs that he deſerves it."

"But in the apartment above the coffee-room," ſaid Don Cleofas, "I behold a ſcene of a very different nature. The perſon whom I ſee haranguing from a kind of pulpit, is, I ſuppoſe, a very eloquent preacher, whom the wiſdom of government has appointed to exert his talents, to check the propenſities of his hearers to this alluring vice of gambling, in the vicinity of that ſpot where they are ſo continually indulged."—"Ah, my good friend," replied the Demon, and ſmiling a little at the ſame time, "that man is an innocent miniſter to the very folly againſt which you ſuppoſe his declamation to be directed. He

He is an Auctioneer of the firſt character, and is almoſt univerſally employed to ſell, in this public manner, the eſtates, &c. which luxury, folly, caprice, and death transfer from one poſſeſſor to another. The quantity of landed property and other articles of value, which paſs through his hands in the courſe of a year, is beyond your conception; and his profits, as you may ſuppoſe, bear an adequate proportion. He was originally a petty houſehold broker, ſaleſman, and undertaker; he furniſhed the living with little ſecond-hand articles, and the dead with that laſt of all conveniencies, called a coffin; while his wife made the ſhrouds, that were to be their laſt apparel. But by perſevering induſtry, an acute turn of mind, and obliging manners, he is riſen, by degrees, to be the firſt of his profeſſion, and exerciſes it in a manner that does equal honour to himſelf and juſtice to his employers. He has now amaſſed a very large fortune, and enjoys it in a becoming manner. He has been

been elected one of the magiſtrates of this city, the duties of which he fulfills with ſpirit and diligence; and he looks forward, with no common expectation, to become one of of its repreſentatives in the ſenate of the nation. But diſeaſe threatens to cloud his future proſpects; and decrepitude, I fear, will accompany the cloſe of his proſperous life:—For ſuch is the life of a man conſidered, in this climate of profit and loſs, if he does but acquire wealth; though he ſhould loſe his health, ſpirits, and, I may almoſt add, his honour in the acquiſition of it. In the courſe of the preſent ſale, he has diſpoſed of ſeveral expenſive articles. The firſt was the beautiful villa of a nobleman, who had become tired of it, becauſe he had made it ſo compleat, as to leave no room for the paſtime of improvement. The ſecond, was an old family ſeat and park, with a large adjacent eſtate, to pay the gambling debts of its owner, who has not yet advanced to his thirtieth year. The third is the reverſionary right of a large

large ſum in the funds, after the death of three perſons, who have each a life-intereſt in it; a circumſtance of ſo affecting a nature to the final inheritor, that he cannot ſuffer his ſenſibility to be on the rack with ſuch an unfriendly expectation. He, poor amiable man! loves them all too well to wiſh their death; and therefore, for an inconſiderable immediate ſum, has transferred the right of wiſhing it, to a little Jew, who will not fail to exerciſe it with the moſt ſincere and daily devotion.—The lot which is now waiting the deciſive ſtroke of the hammer, is a ſuperb ſuit of jewels, belonging to a naval officer; who, having made a conſiderable fortune amid the thunder of war, has contrived to diſſipate the greateſt part of it amid the pleaſures of peace: and he is now actually obliged to have recourſe to the brilliant paraphernalia of his wife, in order to ſupport the diſplay of a fine carriage, and the eſtabliſhment of an elegant houſe during another winter.

The

" The perſon who has purchaſed the jewels is a very opulent citizen. He was originally a poor weſt country-boy, that came to *London* in a very menial capacity; and won his way, by diligence and acuteneſs, to be a clerk in a merchant's accompting-houſe, in this city. At this period, a relation of his, and of as low origin as himſelf, proved to be heir of all the riches which an extortionate miſer had left behind him. This man, not knowing how to manage the immenſe fortune to which he had ſucceeded, employed his young relation in that buſineſs, and, as it is ſuppoſed, rewarded him in a moſt bountiful manner indeed for the care and attention he exerciſed in his affairs; for he grew ſuddenly into great wealth, has long been a citizen of conſequence, holds himſelf forth as a popular character, and can very well afford to give a couple of thouſand pounds for a caſket of diamonds, to adorn the perſon of his moſt amiable wife.

" But

"But although," obſerved Aſmodeus. "I have no need of ſubſtantial food, your mortal Lordſhip requires a little ſolid ſuſtenance; and I will inſtantly conduct you to the moſt ſuperb tavern in *Europe*, where your palate ſhall be regaled in as high a degree by a cook, as your curioſity has been gratified by a devil." Don Cleofas moſt readily aſſented to the propoſition; and, having quitted their advanced ſituation, they proceeded, like any other gentlemen, to the London Tavern; the extent and elegance of whoſe apartments, with the various preparations and conveniencies for the good things of the table, did not fail to call forth the utmoſt aſtoniſhment of the noble *Spaniard*. "The very rent of the houſe," ſaid the Demon, "would afford a ſplendid eſtabliſhment to a Spaniſh general, and all his family; while the money conſumed in it, would maintain the whole army in the ſervice of your ſovereign. At this very moment there are ſeveral different companies aſſembled in its various apartments,

ments, to gratify their palates, from two to five guineas a head.

"How immenſe," exclaimed the Count, "muſt be the riches of this nation!"—"Their wealth," anſwered the Demon, "is ſuperior to your moſt elevated ideas of it; and if any thing can undo them, it will be that very wealth which is ſuch a natural object of your wonder. For ſuch is their bravery, naval genius, commercial ſpirit, and public credit, that they alone might almoſt reſiſt the united world. The enemy from without need not be an object of their apprehenſion.—The combined fleets of the moſt powerful nations of Europe, would not affect the mind of a diſcerning Britiſh politician with ſo much real alarm, as this very edifice which now receives us; or, in other words, that ſpirit of luxury, which could juſtify its erection, and ſupport it in proſperity.— Luxury, by weakening the principles and enervating the character of this

this magnanimous people, may, perhaps, in time, deſtroy the vigour of the firſt nation in the world."

Dinner being ſerved, they placed themſelves at the table; and the Demon having taken upon him an human appetite, with an human form, they did juſtice to the exquiſite repaſt which was ſet before them: and having invigorated their ſpirits with a few glaſſes of generous wine, and aided digeſtion with a diſh of coffee, the Count ſuggeſted to his companion that the hour of leiſure now offered itſelf, which he engaged to amuſe, by relating the curious hiſtory of the Scotch Baronet whom they had ſeen on the Royal Exchange. The Demon did not heſitate to fulfil his promiſe, and inſtantly began his narrative, as follows:

The Hiſtory of a SCOTCH BARONET.

" Sir —— —— was born in *Scotland*, about the year 1716, and received the beſt education of his country. By the death of his father, he came, at about the age of twenty-four, into the poſſeſſion of an eſtate, which afforded him the full power of indulging a diſpoſition which was amorous to an extreme. The ſame diſpoſition, at the age of twenty-ſeven, led him to *Italy*, where he paſſed ſeveral years in the moſt luxurious indulgence of his predominant paſſion. Having ſuffered his pleaſures to take the lead of every other conſideration, he had foreſtalled the courſe of his remittances to ſuch a degree, that it was abſolutely neceſſary for him to ſeek a temporary retirement, till the ordinary current of his ſupplies ſhould be reſtored.

" For

" For this purpoſe, he took a formal leave of his friends of every denomination, and ſought the retirement of a farm-houſe, at the foot of the *Apennine* mountains, at no great diſtance from the city of *Naples*; where, by leading a life of ſolitude and reflection, his mind, which was naturally ardent and enthuſiaſtic, became diſpoſed to receive any impreſſion that external circumſtances might offer to it.

" In this ſituation, he read the few volumes he had taken to his retreat with him, again and again.—He happened accidentally to aſk his ruſtic hoſt if he had any book, of any kind whatever, in his poſſeſſion? The countryman replied, that 'he had no other books but ſuch 'as aſſiſted him at the ſervices of the 'church, except a ſmall number of volumes 'that he had found piled up in the corner 'of an unoccupied room, when he came 'to the farm; and which, as they were 'written in a language he did not under-

'ſtand,

'ſtand, he had left as he found them; ſo 'that, he apprehended, they would not be 'in a condition to afford his gueſt any 'amuſement or information.'

"The Baronet, who thought that he might find an *Homer*, a *Virgil*, or a *Livy*, among them, was impatient to enter on the reſearch; and in an uninhabited chamber, at a deſerted corner of the houſe, which had once been a ſtately tower, he found the covers of ſeveral volumes, whoſe interior parts had been deſtroyed by the vermin of that quarter. He, however, continued to examine every part of this long forſaken ſpot; till, under an heap of rubbiſh, he diſcovered a book that appeared to be entire; and his ſurprize became inexpreſſible, when, on opening the covers, he found it to be an Engliſh Bible, not one page of which was defiled by the damps of the place, or had been touched by the vermin, who had deſtroyed the reſt of this little library.

"Sir

"Sir —— ——'s education, which had been rather of a religious caſt, had rooted in his mind a veneration for the ſacred volume, which the continual diſſipations of his paſt life had not been able to eradicate; ſo that the circumſtance of recovering a copy of it, in his own language, in ſuch a place, and in ſuch an extraordinary manner, produced a firm perſuaſion in his mind, that the ſacred character of the volume was the indubitable cauſe of its miraculous preſervation. This idea, at firſt, played upon his fancy, and, at length, inflamed it; ſo that by continually ruminating on the ſtrange event of an Engliſh Bible being found in a corner of an old manſion, inhabited by a farmer, at the foot of the *Appenine* mountains, his imagination was quickly elevated to higher conjectures, which ended in a firm belief that, for ſome gracious purpoſe of Providence to himſelf, the intervention of a ſuperior præternatural agency had been permitted, and that

that an actual miracle had given this bible into his poſſeſſion.

" Under theſe impreſſions, as might be naturally expected, he began not only to read, but to ſtudy the inſpired pages with the moſt ardent attention;—when, after many reiterated peruſals, he fixed the ſtandard of his enthuſiaſm in the revelations of St. John; from whoſe prophetic viſions, his heated imagination acquired that ardour of devotion which has governed every ſucceeding period of his life.

" *Where ſhall we find faith upon the Earth?*—was an enquiry which he was determined to purſue at the riſque of every comfort of life, and, if neceſſary, of life itſelf.—And with this exclamation for his motto, he ſallied forth from his retirement, with all the devotion, zeal and undaunted ſpirit of enterprize, which diſtinguiſhed the antient champions of the croſs.

" Though

" Though a good claſſical ſcholar, he was unacquainted with thoſe tongues which were eſſentially neceſſary to his abode in *Paleſtine*, a country which he was determined to viſit, with all the humility of a pilgrim, and the reſolution of a martyr.—With the knowledge he already poſſeſſed, and the enthuſiaſm that now inflamed his mind, a ſhort reſidence in one of the iſlands of the Archipelago, was ſufficient to give him fluency in the modern Greek. But this was not all:—He thought it eſſential to his future purpoſe, to acquire an equal proficiency in the Oriental tongues; and, for this end, he paid a viſit to the iſland of *Malta*, where he found every opportunity of making the progreſs he deſired. Here he intended to take up his abode, till his ardent zeal had acquired the only qualifications that now remained to fit him for his eaſtern expedition. But here his pilgrimage concluded:—For in this little ſpot, ſacred to the remaining church

church militant heroiſm of Chriſtian knighthood, he found, as he thought, that *faith* which was the grand object of his enthuſiaſtic reſearch; and, having found it, he made a ſolemn vow to live in its preſence, and continue the worſhip of it, till he ſhould have attained that degree of religious ſtrength, and that ſtate of human perfection, which would enable him to retire from its influence, without any poſſible danger from the contamination of the world.

In order, therefore, that he might be untroubled with all worldly concerns, and purſue the ardent career of his devotions without any interruption, he gave orders to his agent in *Scotland*, to prepare a general conveyance of all his eſtates to his younger brother, with a reſervation to himſelf of a certain income, during his life, for his own perſonal maintenance, and the calls of charity.—He ordered this buſineſs to be completed with all poſſible diſpatch; and

and that his ſteward ſhould, himſelf, bring the deeds to *Malta*, that there might be no delay in the completion of his enthuſiaſtic deſign, and no want of form in the execution of this extraordinary grant.

" Being thus unſhackled from the concerns of the world, he yielded himſelf a willing ſlave to the ſervitude of devotion: not only obſerving every, the moſt minute, rite of the religion he had embraced, but performing every act of charity, humiliation, and penitence, that his pious zeal ſuggeſted to be neceſſary to that perfection and holy triumph, which he humbly hoped that he ſhould one day attain.

His raiment was mean, and his food of the coarſeſt kind, of which he took no more than was juſt ſufficient to ſuſtain life. His purſe was open to the relief of every kind of diſtreſs; and as an initiation to the higher duties of Chriſtian charity, he began

with the loweſt; and during the courſe of ſeven years, he daily attended the public hoſpitals, and aſſiſted the ſervants in performing the moſt menial offices for the maimed, the infirm and the ſick.

"That a man of his rank and fortune, who had become ſuch a zealous convert to the Roman religion, ſhould be held in the higheſt eſtimation by the bigotry of the Malteſe champions, is a natural conſequence. The Grand Maſter paid Sir —— —— every mark of reſpect in his power, and offered him all the honourable diſtinctions which he poſſeſſed the privilege of beſtowing. But the Catholic Baronet humbly retreated from all favour or precedence, and continued to win his way, by ſlow degrees, and in all poſſible humility, to that ſpiritual elevation, to which his ſoul ſo ardently aſpired.

"With the religion of *Malta*, he acquired all the fanaticiſm of its inhabitants:

One time he thought himſelf poſſeſſed by the Devil; at another, he fancied himſelf bleſſed with ſeraphic viſions; and, during his ſolitary muſings in the well-known caverns of the iſland, which he uſed to make the frequent ſcene of his pious meditations, he has often been charmed with the fancied voice of a tender mother, who, while he was yet a boy, had been conſigned to her laſt repoſe, in the ſepulchre of her fathers.

" This kind of life he continued to lead for near thirty years; when, after a ſeries of continual and painful ſtruggles, believing himſelf to have attained that ſtate of perfection to which he aſpired, he quitted the iſland of *Malta*; and, after paſſing ſome time in *Spain* and *France*, he at length retired to a town on the nethermoſt part of the Continent; where, careleſs of exterior appearance, and inattentive to the concerns of the world, he hoped to paſs his whole time in offices of devotion, and the

pleaſures of ſublime contemplation; patiently waiting to exchange this ſublunary ſtate for that perfect and eternal happineſs which he believes to be already prepared for him.

" But though Sir —— —— had found faith, he could not as yet find peace upon the earth. A woman, who was the daughter of a kind of upper-ſervant to his father, had been ſo far the object of his youthful paſſion, as to have had a child by her young maſter, which, as well as herſelf, he provided for at the time, in a manner ſufficient to give a befitting ſubſiſtence to them both; without concerning himſelf any farther about them.—The child grew up to manhood, was entered into the ſea-ſervice, and had even paid a viſit to his father at *Malta*; where, indeed, he received no other encouragement but the expences of his voyage, and a requeſt to depart immediately from the iſland.

" When

" When, however, the Baronet approached ſo near to his own country as the oppoſite coaſt, the woman herſelf began to have her projects: ambition fired her mind, and ſhe paid her former lover a very unwelcome viſit at his retreat in a town in the *Auſtrian Netherlands*; when ſhe ſet to work on the pious weakneſs of his mind, and urged it as a neceſſary act to his perfection, and her happineſs, that he ſhould now perform the only act of retribution that remained in his power, for his original ſeduction of her,—which was to make her his wife.—In ſhort, on her engaging to quit him as ſoon as the ceremony was over, he conſented to comply with her requeſt;—and ſhe returned to Scotland, not only an honeſt woman, but a lady into the bargain.

" It had been the frequent boaſt of this pious Knight, that he had ſtruggled with the Devil for upwards of twenty years, and had at length gained a compleat victory

over the arch-enemy of human nature. But he had now every reaſon to think, that his conquered antagoniſt, having got him again into the world, was beginning to rally in a new form, and that his mortal warfare was not yet compleated. For this marriage, according to the laws of *Scotland*, not only legalized the mother, but legitimated the ſon; who, on that account, began to talk aloud of making ſome claim upon the property which his father had conveyed away to the then natural ſucceſſor to it. But the actual, and indeed legal poſſeſſor of theſe eſtates, though they had been doubled in their value ſince they were transferred to his poſſeſſion, was ſo mortified and enraged at finding himſelf ſo ſuddenly, as well as unaccountably deprived of his ſucceſſion to the family honours,—that he refuſed, with extreme indignation, to allow his very unexpected nephew any, the moſt trifling means of ſupport. Indeed, Sir —— —— began to entertain ſome apprehenſions, that he ſhould

ſhould be forced to apply compulſory means, to ſecure the payment of the annuity that he had reſerved to himſelf. In ſhort, he had ſtill knowledge enough of the world left to diſcover, that if he wiſhed to have another hour of tranquillity, he muſt make an extraordinary effort to ſecure it; and he is accordingly come over to *England*, after an abſence of forty years, to try if he cannot bring his brother to act with juſtice to all parties. In this buſineſs it is the intereſt of the latter to acquieſce; and, having long been in the habit of purſuing his intereſt, he will not, on this occaſion, act in oppoſition to it. This agreeable information was communicated to the old Baronet this very morning, by the Scotch merchant, with whom we ſaw him converſing on the Royal Exchange. In a few days, therefore, Sir —— —— will return to the continent, with encreaſed conſolation; and will there cloſe his eyes in the full aſſurance of all the glorious promiſes of that religion to whoſe ſervice he has devoted ſo large a portion of his life."

No

No ſooner had the Devil upon Two Sticks concluded this curious hiſtory, than their ears were ſaluted with the repeated huzzas and acclamations of the company over them; which occaſioning ſome degree of terror, as well as ſurpriſe, in the mind of the Count, he demanded, with a look and tone of much impatience, the cauſe of what he had heard. "Be not alarmed," replied his companion, "the ſhouts, however they may affect you, are thoſe of joy and feſtivity, and proceed from a grave body of the magiſtrates and common-council of *London*, who are now giving a very ſumptuous entertainment to a great naval officer, as a public mark of their gratitude for the ſervices he performed for his country during the late war; and as they drink the healths of certain popular characters, they accompany their libations with the complimentary acclamations that have ſaluted our ears, and which are ſufficiently loud to occaſion the Admiral, however accuſtomed

cuſtomed he may have been to the roar of cannon, a moſt violent head-ach.

" This is the ſame valiant commander whom I yeſterday ſhewed you in the Park, and who, within theſe three years, could not have obtained credit for a guinea of any one member of the corporation which is now ſo highly honoured with his preſence. You might imagine, perhaps," continued Aſmodeus, " that a ſword enriched with diamonds, or a maſſive ſervice of plate, would, either of them, have been a more becoming compliment to a virtuous commander, than a ſplendid banquet, of which he has not the appetite to partake. But the conſiderate body of men who have voted this honour, being all engaged in trade, did not chuſe to meddle with warlike weapons; and, as to the plate, they wiſely reflected, that they ſhould never be invited to partake of the good things that might be ſerved upon it:—They, therefore, determined to give the Admiral a

luxurious dinner; which, though it only affords an empty meal to his vanity, adminiſters a ſolid comfort to their gormandizing ſtomachs.

"To ſay the truth, among the vices of this country may be reckoned a too great love of the table; or, in the common phraſe, of eating and drinking; and the Demon who preſides over this department, boaſts of its ſuperior power. It not only pervades the ſcenes of pleaſure, but the moſt ſerious buſineſs of ſociety. Public charities are ſuſtained by feaſts,—private tranſactions loſe their difficulty of arrangement, amid the pleaſures of the table:—The adminiſtration of juſtice muſt be accompanied with a regale; and the poor, of almoſt every pariſh in the kingdom, would be ſtarved, if a good dinner did not crown the labours of thoſe who are appointed to ſuperintend ſuch an important ſervice.—In the room adjoining, the kitchen and cellar of this tavern have, by their united powers,

powers, juſt ſettled a complicated diſpute in the courſe of an afternoon, which nine years expenſive ſtruggle in the courts of law and equity had not been able to conclude. Bacchus and Ceres have ſo much influence in this country, that Venus herſelf is ſometimes made ſubſervient to them."

"But, by the account you have given of the buſineſs," obſerved Don Cleofas, "this ſame eating and drinking ſeems to be productive of much real good." "The remark is rather ſhrewd," anſwered Aſmodeus; "but my obſervations were not of a tendency to prove that eating and drinking did not ſometimes produce good; but that good ſhould not be made to depend upon eating and drinking.

"However, I muſt now," continued Aſmodeus, "requeſt your permiſſion to conduct you to your hotel. A very particular commiſſion, of which I will relate the reſult to-morrow morning, compels me to abſent myſelf from you till that time:—

time:—We can take another opportunity to peep into the nocturnal ſcenes of this part of the city." The bill was immediately ordered, and paid; the amount of which, the Count could not help obſerving, was equal to the ſupport of a very genteel family at *Madrid* for a week;—and the Demon, with his uſual celerity, bore away Don Cleofas to his apartment at the other end of the town.

END OF VOL. I.

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Combe, William
The devil upon two stick

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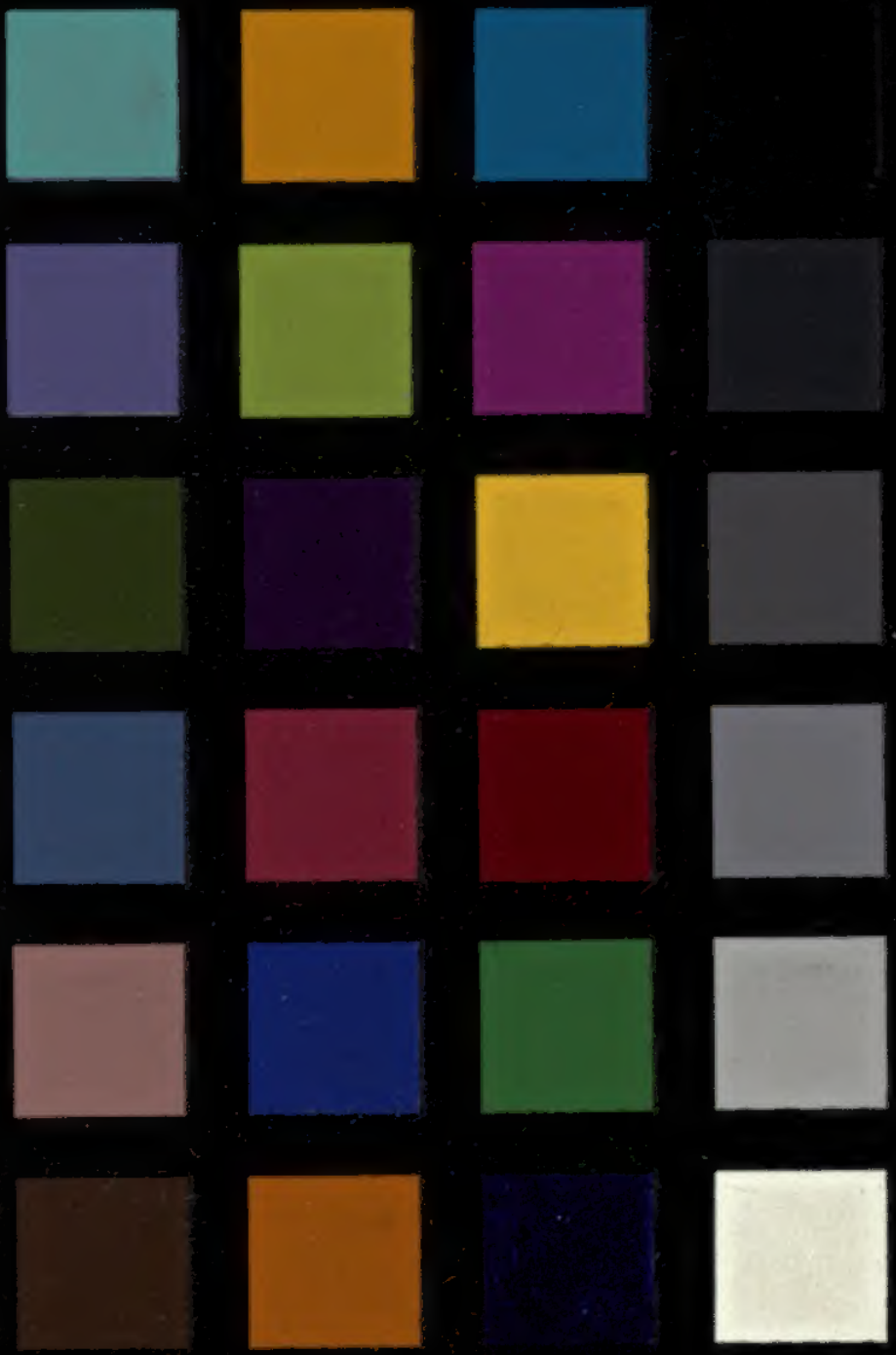
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